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Page 15

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Nitish to take oath as Rajya Sabha member today

Page 10

Strong deals help TCS post 12.2% rise in Q4 net profit

Page 14

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Smooth sailing for Sunetra in Baramati

Cong withdraws candidate from bypoll after requests from NCP, NCP (SP), Fadnavis

Page 11

Boost to truce as Israel to talk with Lebanon

HOPE ON: Decision amid fears of Iran deal failing

BEIRUT/DUBAI, AGENCIES

In a potential boost to West Asia ceasefire efforts, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday that he authorised direct negotiations "as soon as possible" with Lebanon aimed at disarming Iranian-backed Hezbollah militants and establishing relations between the neighbours.

The two countries have technically been at war since Israel was established in 1948.

There was no immediate response from Lebanese authorities. But Israel-Lebanon negotiations were expected to begin next week at the State Department in Washington.

The prospect of talks appeared to bolster the tentative ceasefire in the Iran war that had staggered under the weight of Israel's bombardment of Beirut, Tehran's continued chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz and uncertainty over whether planned peace talks can find common ground.

Netanyahu's announcement came amid disagreement over whether the ceasefire deal included a pause in fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, and a day after Israel pounded Beirut with airstrikes that resulted in the deadliest day in Lebanon since the war began on Feb. 28.

Lebanon's health ministry said more than 300 people were killed and more than 1,000 wounded Wednesday in Israeli strikes in central Beirut and other areas of Lebanon.

Iran had said Israel's ongoing attacks on Hezbollah were violating the ceasefire agreement.

Netanyahu and Trump have said it was not.

On Saturday, Pakistan is scheduled to host Iranian and US officials for talks in Islamabad.

▸ Iran, Page 6

A DAY AFTER TRUCE

- Iran announces alternative routes for ships travelling via Strait of Hormuz, citing risk of sea mines
- Oil prices climb back toward $100 per barrel over fears of ceasefire failing
- Spain to reopen its embassy in Iran, which was closed in March due to the war
- UN, China, UK, France push for ceasefire to be extended to Lebanon
- Iran's nuclear agency chief stresses protection of right to enrich uranium
- Pakistan beefs up security ahead of high-stakes talks between US and Iran this weekend

Lebanese rescuers at the site of an Israeli airstrike. AFP

Hormuz traffic at near standstill

Ship traffic through the Strait of Hormuz stood at well below 10% of normal volumes on Thursday despite a US–Iran ceasefire, as Tehran asserted its control by warning ships to keep to its territorial waters while transiting. Hundreds of tankers and other vessels are stuck inside the Gulf.
Details on Page 13

Trump seeks quick Nato backing

Nato Secretary General Mark Rutte has briefed European leaders that Trump wants concrete commitments to help secure the Strait of Hormuz. A diplomat said they noted the frustration in Washington, but the US did not consult allies before starting the war.
Details on Page 13

Record voter turnout in Assam, Puducherry; 78% polling in Kerala

GUWAHATI/ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/ CHENNAI, DHNS

Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala and Puducherry on Thursday witnessed a higher voter turnout compared with the 2021 polls, with the truncated, post-SIR voters' list playing a role in boosting the figures.

Assam reported its highest-ever turnout (in Assembly polls) of 85.64%, surpassing the previous record of 84.67% in 2016. In 2021, the state reported a polling of 82.04%.

Kerala reported a polling of 78.25%, higher than the 76% reported in 2021. Meanwhile, Puducherry also reported its highest-ever polling of 89.87%, exceeding the previous high of 86.19% in 2011.

The turnout is likely to go up as the Election Commission compiles data from all polling stations.

Related reports, Page 11
K'taka bypolls, Page 6

People wait to vote in Guwahati, Assam. PTI

Amid competition, state fast-tracks business approvals

Sixteen key approvals get faster timelines

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Facing stiff competition from neighbouring states and criticism over red tape, Karnataka has slashed timelines for multiple business approvals, including setting a 45-day limit for industrial land-use change in the Bengaluru metropolitan region.

Sixteen key approvals have been simplified with new, faster timelines, Industries Minister MB Patil said. "This was badly needed. We kept talking about a single-window system, but it wasn't happening. Time is money for investors," Patil told *DH*.

Karnataka, which positions itself as an investor-friendly state, fared poorly against Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh on some indices for ease of doing business, especially approvals.

For example, a change of land use for industrial purposes took up to 120 days. This has been cut to 45 days, according to a recent government order. This will apply to lands under local planning authorities in the Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru North and Bengaluru South districts.

▸ Business approvals, Page 6

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

Approval	Karnataka		Telangana	Tamil Nadu	Andhra Pradesh
	Old	New			
Land-use change	120 days	45 days	30 days	22-66 days	Not applicable
Fire NOC	60 days	21 days	7-14 days	30 days	7 days
Consent for Establishment	30-90 days	15-45 days	7-21 days	30-45 days	7-21 days
Factory plan approval	30 days	14 days	7 days	14 days	7 days
Boilers' registration	30 days	14 days	14 days	15 days	14 days
Water supply	60 days	30 days	14 days	22 days	15 days
Lift/escalator licence	40 days	20 days	Not applicable	30 days	21 days
Electrical drawing approval	20-25 days	10 days	14 days	5 days	7 days

SOURCE: KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT

India to grow at 6.6% in FY27: World Bank

NEW DELHI, PTI: The World Bank has marginally raised India's growth projections for 2026-27 fiscal to 6.6% and said although GST rate cuts would boost consumer demands in the initial months, headwinds arising from the Middle East crisis could dent growth. It compares with estimates of 6.9% by the RBI and 6.1% by OECD. Page 14

81.58% clear 2nd PUC; Udupi secures 1st spot

BENGALURU DHNS: A total of 81.58% students cleared the 2nd PUC examination, results of which were announced on Thursday. This is an improvement from last year's 69.16%.

Releasing the results, School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa said that the freshers have created a history with a total pass of 86.48% as against the 73.45% last year. "I would like to thank all the students for this," he said.

Attributing this performance to measures taken by the department, he said, "There was a deadline for the teachers to complete the syllabus by December and to conduct revision exercises," he added.

The minister also stated that conducting preparatory exams at the state-level and providing question banks and question paper blueprints helped the students.

Three students emerged as toppers in Arts with 598 out of 600, and in Commerce, two students topped in the state with 600 out of 600 and in Science, one student scored 599 out of 600.

Udupi topped with 96.39%, followed by Dakshina Kannada with 96.35% and Kodagu with 92.34%. Yadgir finished at the bottom with 71.21%, followed by Raichur with 74.09% and Gadag 76.65%.

Related reports, Page 5B

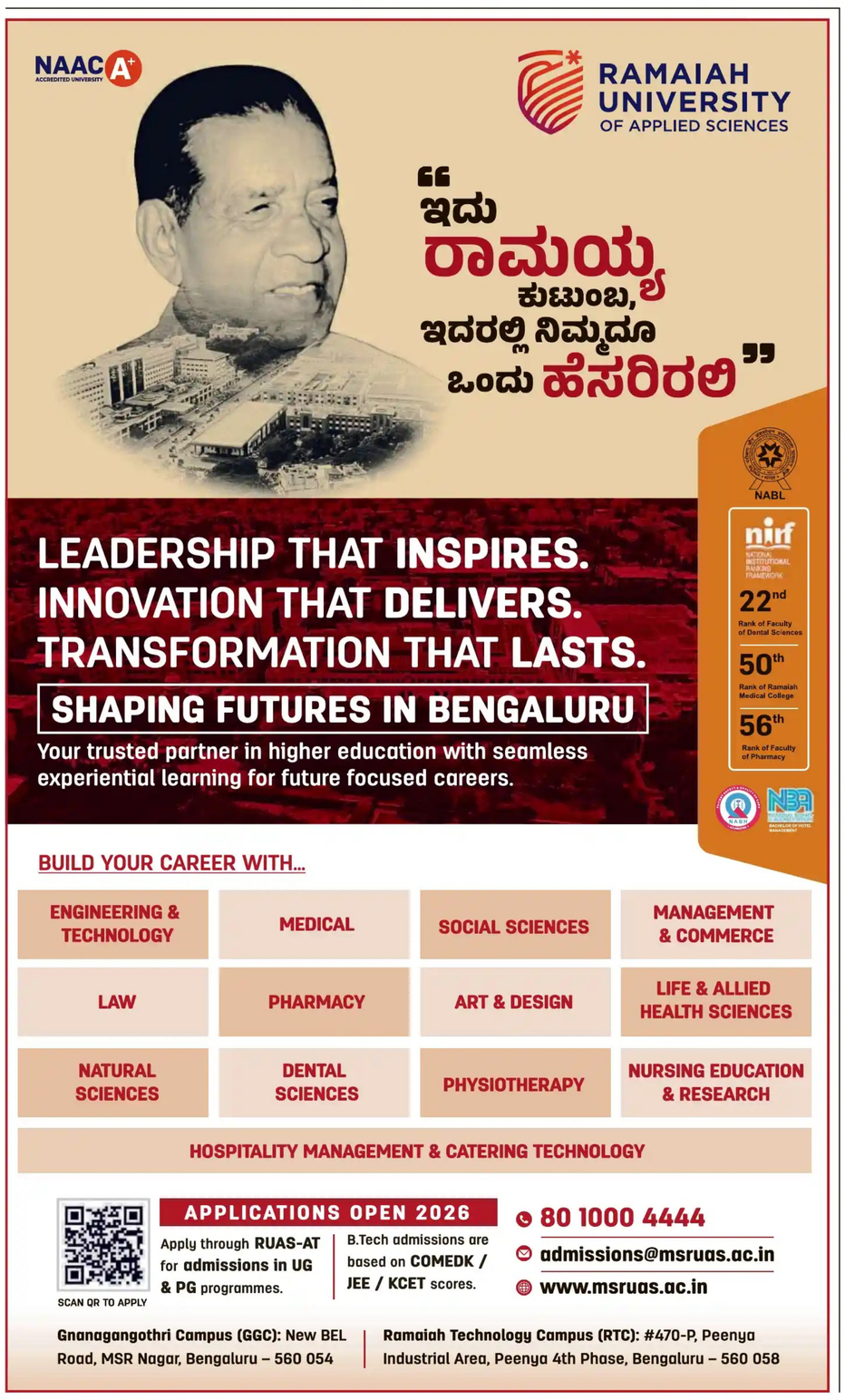
GSI report of tunnel project impact on Lalbagh by April 21

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Geological Survey of India (GSI) on Thursday confirmed that the expert committee is currently evaluating the potential impact of the proposed underground tunnel project on the iconic Peninsular Gneiss monument at the Lalbagh Botanical Garden.

Speaking at a meeting with citizen groups and residents' welfare associations at the GSI office on Thursday, Vijay Vishnupant Mugal, Additional Director General (ADG) and Head of Department, GSI Southern Region, said that the committee is expected to submit its technical findings to the Central government by April 21.

The meeting comes in the wake of mounting pressure from environmentalists and citizens who fear that any subterranean construction work could irreparably damage the 3,000-million-year-old rock formation, a designated National Geological Monument.

Related report, Page 4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Quickly

Woman assaulted, twins die after premature birth

In a shocking incident, a pregnant woman was allegedly kicked in the stomach over loan recovery, resulting in the premature birth of twin babies and their death later, at Allipur village in Savanur taluk of Haveri district. An investigation is underway, said the police. Pavitra Lamani, who was injured in the incident on March 28, delivered twin babies on April 7, but both died within a few hours.

Launch app for trekkers' safety: Khandre

Minister of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Eshwar Khandre has called for the creation of a tracking app in light of the recent incidents of missing trekkers. On Thursday, he suggested that an app be modelled on the lines of the e-Gastu and M-STrIPES.
Details on Page 7

Man mowed down by tractor during temple procession

A 29-year-old man was killed after a tractor, reportedly being driven in a rash and negligent manner, during a temple procession, mowed him down in Hulimavu, Bengaluru, on Thursday. The incident occurred around 4.30 am, said the police.
Details on Page 3

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Patient Name: **John Doe**

Receipt No: **XYZ420**

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X-ray Chest	₹ 550
Sugar, Fasting	₹ 80
Total	**₹ 8130**

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Patient Name: **John Doe**

Receipt No: **ASL123**

Test	Charges
MRI Brain	₹ 3650
X-ray Chest	₹ 275
Sugar, Fasting	₹ 40
Total	**₹ 3965**

PAID

AARTHI SCANS & LABS — LARGEST INTEGRATED DIAGNOSTIC CHAIN

Name	MR. JOHN DOE	Patient ID	AS_KLP_MR_8099
Accession No	8099_263527_06	Age/Gender	055Y / Male
Referred By	Dr RAJASEKAR MD	Date	06-Apr-2026

MRI BRAIN

TECHNIQUE:
T1W Sagittal, Dw- b1000, ADC, GRE
T2W FS Axial
FLAIR Axial & Coronal

OBSERVATION:
No evidence of acute infarct, hemorhage or space occupying mass lesion noted.
Evidence of T2 FLAIR hyperintensity noted in the bilateral centrum semiovale, corona radiata, bilateral periventricular white matter region with no obvious ADC changes likely considered of small vessel ischemic changes fazeka grade III.
Evidence of grade II medial temporal lobe atrophy noted bilaterally.
...minent basal cisterns sulcal spaces , dilated sylvian fissure and inular cistern ,cingulate ...al sign positive - can be considered for normal pressure hydrocephalus.
...ilated bilateral ventricular system EVA NS index 0.3 ventriculomegaly.
...brain to poss ratio measures 0.7 5 considered for parkinson disease.
...al empty sella
...evidence of abnormal signal intensity or volume loss in the hippocampi.
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29-year-old mowed down by tractor during temple procession

Driver sped through crowd of devotees; still at large

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 29-year-old man was killed after a tractor, driven in a rash and negligent manner during a temple procession, mowed him down in Hulimavu early Thursday morning.

The deceased, Akshath P, was a resident of Banashankari. The incident occurred around 4.30 am on the road leading to the Sri Renuka Yellamma Temple.

Akshath, who owned a fuel station in Banashankari, had visited the area to invite a friend for his wedding later this month and to witness the Pallakki Utsava (palanquin procession) of the Sri Kondandarama Swamy Temple.

While he was standing on the right side of the road, the tractor (KA-51-T-722) carrying the Sri Muthurayaswamy palanquin approached from the direction of the Yellamma Temple.

The driver, Basha, was allegedly driving at high speed and recklessly despite the presence of devotees. The vehicle hit Akshath, knocking him to the ground. The tractor's large right rear wheel rolled over him, causing fatal injuries to his head, stomach, and chest.

Witnesses and passersby rushed a profusely bleeding Akshath to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

Authorities have impounded the tractor involved in the accident. The victim, Akshath (inset).

A senior traffic police officer told *DH*: "Organisers often hold processions and festivals without notifying authorities or assessing the event's disaster sensitivity, which can lead to loss of lives.

"This incident could have been a disaster if bystanders had not jumped out of the way in time.

"Also, the event committee should have taken precautionary measures, such as verifying driver backgrounds and ensuring vehicle fitness, before proceeding."

The Hulimavu Traffic Police have registered a case under sections 281 (rash driving), 125(A) and (B) (causing hurt and endangering life), and 106(1) (causing death by negligence) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The tractor has been impounded, and investigations are on to apprehend the driver, who is reportedly absconding.

SENIOR TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICER

"Organisers often hold events without informing authorities or assessing risks, which can cost lives. This incident could have been a disaster if bystanders had not jumped out of the way in time. Stronger checks like verifying drivers and vehicle fitness are essential.

Bengaluru guitarist's ID used for IPL black ticket sale

BENGALURU, DHNS: An Instagram post turned into a legal nightmare for a city-based musician after his identity card was allegedly misused to sell IPL tickets in black.

The complainant, Hemanth KB, a guitarist with the band 'Sakkre Mitai', had earlier performed at Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) home matches at the Platinum Lounge inside M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The band had been issued official ID cards by event partner DNA Entertainment for venue access.

Trouble began after the opening match on March 28 when the guitarist, in his excitement, shared photos from the event on Instagram — inadvertently revealing the front side of his ID card.

On April 6, the band's drummer, Pruthvi, received a call from the organisers stating that the same ID card, belonging to Hemanth, had surfaced in a black ticket racket. The caller alleged that tickets were being sold illegally using the musician's identity credentials and asked him to report it to the officials.

The guitarist approached the police the next day, only to discover that an unidentified person had allegedly used his ID details to collect Rs 4,875 through UPI from unsuspecting buyers. Investigators traced the amount to a specific mobile number and transaction ID.

Hemanth denied any role in the racket and told police he had no knowledge of how his identity was stolen and misused. He has since deleted the post.

Cubbon Park police have registered a case and are tracking the person behind the fraud.

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City businessman alleges Rs 100-crore NSE share fraud

Accused raised funds from multiple investors, but failed to deliver shares

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A city-based businessman has alleged that he was duped in a large-scale fraud involving unlisted shares of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), with the total amount suspected to be around Rs 100 crore.

A senior police officer said that in November 2024, the prime accused Nisha Kumari R approached the complainant BS Rajesh, Managing Director of Hill Green Herbals Private Limited, claiming to be associated with the NSE and offering a partnership along with allotment of unlisted shares.

She later introduced Rajesh to several people and firms involved in unlisted securities trading, including Sathish Kumar, Director of Atum Capital Private Limited, and four others from private companies in Maharashtra, all named as accused in the FIR. Atum is based in Anna Nagar, Chennai.

In January 2025, Rajesh entered into a share purchase agreement with Atum Capital Private Limited to buy 1,000 NSE shares at Rs 1,600 each, amounting to Rs 16 lakh.

The accused assured him that the shares would be transferred within four to six months after obtaining regulatory approvals. Despite completing KYC formalities and being told that approvals were secured, the shares were neither transferred nor was the money refunded.

Rajesh further alleged that the group had mobilised nearly Rs 100 crore from multiple investors without delivering the promised shares.

Based on a complaint, High Grounds police have registered a case and asked the complainant to provide additional documents and transaction details.

The complainant also claimed that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has registered a case related to the fraud. Police have asked him to submit all relevant evidence to assist in the investigation, an officer said.

Speaking to *DH*, Rajesh, a Vasanthnagar resident, said: "All investments were through the company. We kept investing, so this was also done in the company's name."

He added that the entities involved, including Atum Capital, are existing and registered companies, but not listed on stock exchanges. "These are private financial companies dealing with investments. They are SEBI-registered, but not listed in the stock market," he said.

Rajesh said he had direct dealings with only two persons — Nisha Kumari, who is from Bengaluru, and Satish Kumar, who operates from Chennai.

"Since the matter has gone to the ED, we had to register a case to make our claim. We were repeatedly assured of returns, but did not receive anything," Rajesh added.

Viral 'zombie drug' video misleading: City top cop

BENGALURU, DHNS: A video circulating on Instagram claiming to show a person under the influence of a so-called "zombie drug" is misleading, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said on Thursday.

Seemant Kumar Singh

Following the clip's circulation, Bagalur police traced and secured the individual near the Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology. A medical examination found no narcotic or psychotropic substances in his system.

In a statement, the Bengaluru City Police said the man suffers from arthritis and had consumed prescribed pain medication along with alcohol, which led to the disoriented condition seen in the video. Further inquiry revealed he had come to Bengaluru in search of work and has been living in the city for the past three months.

Police urged the public not to share unverified or misleading content on social media, warning that such posts can cause panic. Action will be taken against those spreading rumours, they said.

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Disabled passengers protest misuse of reserved train coaches

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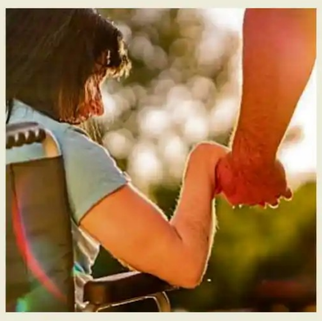
BENGALURU, DHNS



Persons with disabilities (PwD) in Bengaluru have flagged concerns over the misuse of disabled-only compartments on trains, with repeated complaints to railway helplines going unheeded.

Sarvajith S, a 19-year-old engineering student who has a locomotor disability, said he faces the problem every time he travels between Bengaluru and Mysuru.

"I travel every weekend, and every weekend the PwD compartment remains in the same condition — filled to the brim with the general public," he said.

"Two weeks ago, while I was travelling with my mother, there was barely any place to move. I called the helpline at least four times, and each time, they told me that an official would come by to manage the situation, but no one ever did," he added.

The problem persists on other routes as well.

Yashika N, a 29-year-old visually impaired passenger, said she routinely faces this problem while travelling to Chennai.

"Once, when I complained to a Railway Protection Force (RPF) officer, he made only one person move so I could sit. He did not care that the compartment had no space for other PwD passengers boarding at upcoming stations. He did not ask the general passengers to move out," she said.

People with hidden disabilities face an additional layer of difficulty.

Salma Syeda, 53, said her son, who has autism, is often denied access to disabled-friendly spaces because he appears able-bodied. "People are not educated about hidden disabilities, so often the staff is unable to help," she said.

RPF on alert

A South Western Railway (SWR) official said RPF officers were always on the lookout and any member of the general public found in a disabled-friendly compartment was asked to vacate immediately.

Peenya flyover may close for 82 hours starting Monday night

Load tests required after replacement of 1,422 cables

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Traffic congestion is set to worsen on Tumakuru Road next week as authorities plan to shut the Peenya flyover to all vehicular movement for 84 hours straight.

In a plan submitted to the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP), the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has proposed closing the critical flyover from 11 pm on April 13 to 11 am on April 17 to carry out final load tests on four select spans following the replacement of 1,422 prestressing cables over the last eight months.

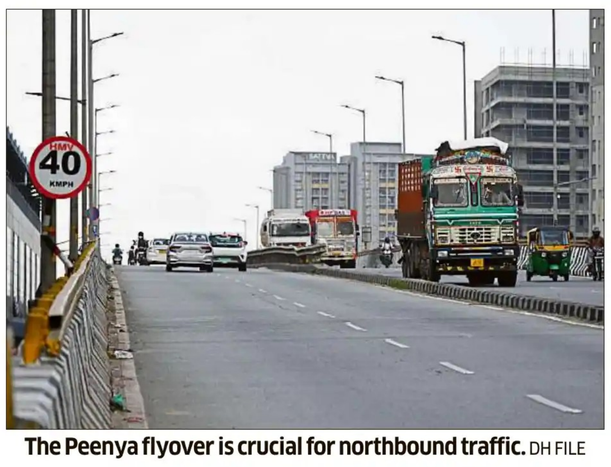
The 15-metre-wide, 4.2-km-long flyover runs from Peenya to Nagasandra on Tumakuru Road, a crucial transit point for northbound traffic.

Opened in 2010, the flyover was shut for buses and trucks in December 2021 after prestressed cables in three of its spans failed due to corrosion. In February 2022, authorities allowed light motor vehicles, but continued to bar buses and trucks. Heavy vehicles were allowed only after the NHAI added 240 additional cables and stressed them.

Later, following a report by a four-member expert committee headed by IISc professor Chandra Kishen JM, the NHAI decided to replace older cables at a cost of Rs 32 crore to prevent future corrosion. In all, 1,422 cables have been replaced.

The cables failed due to corrosion caused by moisture ingress, exacerbated by inadequate protection. The committee recommended a multi-layer protection system to prevent any future corrosion of the 15.22 mm diametre steel cables.

KB Jayakumar, Project Director (Bengaluru), NHAI, explained that the process involves galvanising (zinc coating), wax bathing and PE coating the cables, and then sheathing (encasing) them within four-inch HDPE pipes. In the next step, the cables are stressed and grouted.



The Peenya flyover is crucial for northbound traffic. DH FILE

"We've also installed lights inside the ducts and improved the drainage," he added.

The load test will assess the structural behaviour of the strengthened spans.

During the load test, eight trucks carrying 32 tonnes each will be positioned on selected spans for an extended duration.

The NHAI has identified the spans connecting pillars 54-55, 55-56, 115-116, and 116-117 to conduct the exercise. For load test results, deflections (bending of the span) are measured using gauges installed under each span, Jayakumar said.

To facilitate the work, the flyover has been closed to traffic on Wednesdays in recent months.

"These will be the final load tests. Once successful, we will officially declare the flyover safe for all traffic movements," he added.

A traffic police officer from Peenya confirmed the NHAI's request to shut the flyover, but said no final decision on the traffic block had been taken. "We are evaluating the request for its potential impact on VIP movement," the officer said.

The officer acknowledged that closing the flyover would severely impact traffic because no diversions were available.

"The flyover helps vehicles bypass five traffic signals. If it is shut, all traffic will be diverted to the road below. We'll deploy additional personnel to manage congestion."

Flyover closure

When?
11 pm, Apr 13 to 11 am, Apr 17

Why?
Final load tests to verify strength and safety after replacement of 1,422 cables

Where?
Spans: 4 (P54-55, 55-56, 115-116, 116-117)
Load: 8 trucks × 32 tonnes
Method: Deflection measured via gauges

Previous shutdowns
2021: Shut for buses & trucks
2022: Cars allowed
2024: All traffic allowed
Wednesdays: Traffic restrictions

Final load tests will verify the strength and safety of spans following the replacement of 1,422 cables.

Heritage, water, UNESCO bid: Citizens oppose metro's Lalbagh plan on all fronts

Will not be rushed, says GSI panel; final report to go to Union, state govts

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

On Thursday, citizen groups – including Citizens 4 Citizens, Environmental Impact Group, Bengaluru Environment Trust, Parisarakagi Navu, Hasiru Ratha, Basavanagudi RWA, Lalbagh Walkers, Bengaluru Town Hall, and Bengaluru Coalition of CSOs and RWAs – submitted a petition to Vijay Vishnupant Mugal, ADG and HoD of GSI. DH PHOTO/ASHWIN BM

Citizen groups and heritage advocates confronted the Geological Survey of India (GSI) on Thursday, warning that tunnelling at Lalbagh could violate heritage laws and threaten the water table.

GSI officials said a high-level expert committee is examining the future of the rock monument, while citizen representatives maintained that the site's geological integrity is non-negotiable and urged that the metro project bypass the garden.

Participants expressed scepticism over claims that tunnelling 60 metres below the surface would be safe.

"This is not just a rock; it is a shared heritage for humanity. We do not want a situation where we are told part of it can be saved. The 1975 GSI notification and the Ancient Monuments Act should ensure a complete no-construction zone," a resident said.

Others flagged concerns over the city's shrinking green cover and fragile water table.

"Lalbagh is the lungs of this city. We cannot risk the geological integrity of this site for the sake of urban infrastructure that could be routed elsewhere," another attendee said.

The discussion also covered the demand for a UNESCO World Heritage tag for the Peninsular Gneiss.

GSI officials said high-resolution images of geo-heritage sites have been submitted to the central headquarters and presented to UNESCO teams in New Delhi, but Lalbagh has not been selected. They pointed to UNESCO's parameters, which often favour non-urban, forested sites, as a challenge.

Next steps

The Additional Director General did not share his observations from Wednesday's site visit, but said citizens' concerns would be conveyed to higher authorities.

The expert team, with members from Hyderabad, Chennai and Bengaluru, inspected the site between March 31 and April 2. They are awaiting KML files and project details from the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) and Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE) to complete their assessment.

"We are geologists, not civil engineers. Our focus is the preservation of the monument. No one can force a premature report; we will take the time required for a thorough scientific investigation," said Vijay Vishnupant Mugal, Additional Director General (ADG) and Head of Department, GSI Southern Region.

The GSI's final report will be submitted to the Union and state governments, which will decide the future of the proposed project beneath the garden.

Rajdhani Exp platform shift

BENGALURU, DHNS: Starting Friday, the platform for the Rajdhani Express at the KSR Bengaluru railway station will change.

Citing operational reasons, the South Western Railway (SWR) said train number 22691 KSR Bengaluru-Hazrat Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express would depart from platform number 1 instead of platform number 8.

Train number 12627 KSR Bengaluru-New Delhi Karnataka Express will depart from platform number 2 instead of platform number 1, it added.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

World Buddhist Convention: Launch of 888-foot Buddha statue construction and inauguration of Panchasheel Padayatra; Bhante Jnanatilaka Thero, Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji, Bhante Ananda Thero, Jnanaprakasha Swamiji; CM Siddaramaiah, DK Shivakumar, G Parameshwara, HC Mahadevappa, Ramalinga Reddy, Satish Jarkiholi, and others; Nagasena Buddha Vihara, Sadashivanagar; 10.30 am.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	35.4°C
Minimum	24.6°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as fo 5:30 pm)	NA%
Sunset (April 11)	6:32 pm
Sunrise (April 12)	6:11 am
Moonrise	--:-- am
Moonset	11:21 pm

The cleanliness drive targeted flyovers and storm water drains, two of the city's chronic littering points. CREDIT: GBA

48-hour civic drive clears 10 tonnes of waste

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a push to improve its ranking in Swachh Survekshan 2025–26, the Bengaluru Central City Corporation cleared over 10 tonnes of waste in 48 hours.

The multi-phase cleanliness drives targeted flyovers and storm water drains, two of the city's chronic littering points.

On Wednesday, the fifth phase covered 20 flyovers and eight underpasses, many located near schools, colleges, and major junctions. The drive focused on areas prone to heavy accumulation of dust and plastic waste.

Corporation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan said 495 personnel, including 334 pourakarmikas and 161 auto-tipper staff, were deployed. By the end of the day, four tonnes of waste were cleared.

On Thursday, the sixth phase saw 290 workers deployed across 29 locations near storm water drains. This phase saw 6.7 tonnes of garbage removed.

"Our goal is to transform the jurisdiction into a waste-free zone while securing a better national (Swachh Survekshan) rank," Cholan said.

Officials also carried out door-to-door awareness campaigns, urging residents and vendors to stop dumping waste into drains, which often leads to urban flooding during the monsoon.

Construction worker sexually assaulted minor girl, arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS: An 11-year-old girl was sexually assaulted by a construction worker at Maruthinagar in Jnanabharathi.

The suspect, 25-year-old Mohammed Munna, a native of Dhaka in Bihar, was taken into custody soon after the incident came to light, police said.

A senior police officer said the incident took place on Tuesday evening.

The victim had gone out to play near her house when the accused took her to the terrace of an under-construction building and sexually assaulted her. The child later returned home, and the mother found money with her.

When asked, the girl revealed that a worker nearby had given her the money after luring her, and narrated what had happened.

The mother alerted neighbours, and the girl identified the suspect to her family before the police were informed.

Jnanabharathi police have registered a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and are interrogating the accused.

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CHANGE OF NAME
I, DEEPALAKSHMI SUNDEEP MUNISWAMY, residing at No. 1141, 12th A Main, 9th Block, Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, Bengaluru - 560072, have changed my name to DEEPALAKSHMI SUNDEEP vide affidavit dated 04-04-2026 before notary H.R. Karunakara, Bengaluru.

I, RAHUL NANGIA R/a#101, 1st Floor,the address,46, Vivian Road, Richards Town Bangalore 560005 have`changed my Minor Son's Name from SACHIN RAHUL NANGIA to SACHIN NANGIA (DOB:10.7.2008) vide`affidavit dated:7.4.2026 before`Notary Sharada Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Ditty Joseph Wilson W/o Joseph Wilson V J as per my passport no N6714621, R/at No 101 Thaliyath Villa Phase 1, Bluejay Ardley, Doddabele, Kengeri, Bengaluru - 560060, have changed my name to DITTY K S (DITTY KADAMATTU SEBASTIAN) vide affidavit dated 12-03-2026 before notary Ravi, Bengaluru.

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Mind over malignancy: Why psycho-oncology can no longer be an afterthought

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

While cancer has long been recognised as a life-threatening illness, mental health support for patients continues to receive limited attention.

The psychological toll — from diagnosis through treatment and survivorship — remains overlooked.

Psycho-oncology, meant to address this gap, is yet to become part of mainstream healthcare.

Lack of focus on mental health and a shortage of trained professionals have made services scarce, doctors said.

Dr Brindha Sitaram, Group Director at a city cancer hospital, said: "In my experience, almost 100% of cancer patients go through some level of fear, anxiety or depression. Globally, evidence suggests that three out of five patients experience significant emotional distress that requires professional support.

"Our internal study of around 2,500 patients showed that 92% experienced emotional difficulties, with 52% facing moderate to severe distress. Even those in the remaining 8% may have been assessed during a relatively stable or positive phase."

On the systemic gap, she said: "The stigma and lack of awareness among doctors have significantly reduced, but the biggest barrier is financial burden. Psycho-oncologist service is not covered by insurance, and many healthcare establishments see it as a low return on investment."

Doctors said psycho-oncology improves treatment adherence and reduces dropouts.

Clinical psychologist Shilpi Saraswat said: "When distress decreases, adherence improves, leading to better treatment outcomes. Quality of life improves, which enhances patient engagement, reduces symptoms, and supports better patient well-being. While dropouts happen for many reasons, those because of fear and anxiety have reduced."

On support for children, Consultant Paediatric Oncology Dr Rasmi Palassery said: "Trained psycho-oncologists assess each patient and address their specific needs, but such targeted psychological support is very limited in most parts of the country. When compared to adults, the survival rate in children is 80%, so there is a need to address anxiety and treatment-induced depression."

Building a workforce

Dr Yaduraj Gowda, Professor and Head of the Department of Palliative Medicine at Bengaluru's Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, said: "The branch of psycho-oncology needs to thrive. The lack of workforce has impacted the field. We have recently started offering internships to students to train them as psycho-oncologists. We have tied up with private colleges offering a master's degree in psycho-oncology and take on students independently as well."

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Bengaluru hits its stride in run season

Here's your guide to some of the upcoming marathons you can lace up for

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

Starting April 15, the public will be invited to experience footpaths cleaned as part of the Indian Pedestrians League.

Summer Run 2026

Participants of all levels can join The Summer Run 2026 . The early-morning schedule includes a 3k non-competitive run open to all ages and a 5k competitive run, divided into age categories: 15-17, 18-29, 30-39, 40-49, and 50+. All participants will receive a participation medal and an e-certificate, while winners of the 5k run will be honoured with trophies.

On April 19, reporting time 5.15 am, flag-off 6 am, at Decathlon, Indiranagar. Tickets online.

Stick to Safety Marathon 2026

The Stick to Safety and Quality Marathon is hosting a Stick to Safety fitness festival in honour of World Safety Day. The festival is over two days — May 9 and 10. The first day includes a safety expo, and a performance by artiste Allok, and the marathon will be held on the second day. The marathon is split into 3k, 5k, and 10k categories, and participants will receive personalised goodies and medals.

On May 10, reporting time 5 am, flag-off 6 am, South United Football Club, RBANM's Ground, Gangadhar Chetty Road. Tickets online.

Run to Educate Girl Child 2026

Organised by the Indro Foundation, this marathon aims to promote running for a cause, with all proceeds dedicated to educating girls. There will be a walkathon and a cycle race as well. Participants can choose from several categories: a non-competitive open 3K run and competitive 3K, 5K, and 10K runs. A total of 108 trophies will be awarded across 17 age groups, divided between men and women. All participants will receive goodies and medical support.

On May 31, 5 am, at Indicube, M G Road. Tickets online. For details, visit @indrofoundation on Instagram.

Step Forward, Give Back

Red FM and o9 Solutions are hosting a walkathon, 'Step Forward, Give Back', to support AI-powered learning for underserved children. Participants can walk 3K, 5K, or 10K, with 10% of ticket sales and Rs 500 per finisher going to the cause. Olympic medallist Saina Nehwal is expected to join.

On May 10, 5.30 am, St Joseph's Indian Institution Grounds, Vittal Mallya Road. Tickets online.

IPL Walk

Project Walkaluru, in collaboration with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), has launched the Indian Pedestrians League (IPL) campaign during the IPL cricket season. Different teams are cleaning up black spots on footpaths across the city. They are named after IPL teams. For instance, RCB has become Raste CleanUp Bengaluru, CSK is Church Street Kasa, and SRH stands for Shivajinagar Rubbish Heap.

Starting April 15, weekly IPL Walks will celebrate these reclaimed footpaths, inviting the public to experience the improvements.

Walk schedules will be posted soon on @gba_office on Instagram.

POPCORN

Spouting wisdom

A Louis Vuitton handbag, just released, is priced at Rs 4.35 lakh. That's no surprise — after all, handbags also go by the name of vanity bags. The real surprise is the shape. It looks like a gardener's water can. A subliminal message that you're so rich you spend money like water, perhaps. Now, is there a risk, when you carry it to your ooh la la parties, that you will be mistaken for your maali trying to sneak in by dressing up like you? Just make sure you speak with your cultivated accent and signature arrogance. No gardener can fake them.

SOURCE: eu.louisvuitton.com

Mounjaro buzz grows, but doctors urge caution

From celebrities to politicians, more Bengalureans are seeking the weight-loss drug, but doctors say it's no shortcut

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Interest in Mounjaro, a drug originally developed to treat type 2 diabetes, has risen steadily in Bengaluru over the past six months, with doctors reporting a rise in enquiries from the fashion and entertainment industries to corporate professionals and even politicians.

While medical practitioners stress that prescriptions remain tightly regulated, they acknowledge that demand is expanding well beyond clinical need, driven in part by social media and high-visibility success stories.

The drug works by lowering blood sugar, suppressing appetite and slowing digestion, and is administered as a weekly injection.

Users speak

Radhika K (name changed), 29, who hopes to build a career in fashion, says she has lost around 12 kg in six weeks. "After repeated rejections due to my weight, I finally feel like I'm getting back on track career-wise," she says.

Vignesh, 34, a businessman, reports a drop from 107 kg to 98 kg after four doses. "It's helped me control my food intake and late-night cravings," he says.

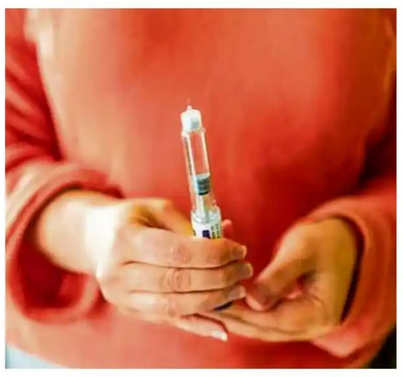
Senior dietician Edwina Raj says enquiries have increased by nearly 50% in the past six months. "We're seeing interest from people in entertainment, those preparing for pageants, and even politicians," she says. Deadlines are a recurring theme. "Many come with a three-month window and a fixed target," she adds, pointing to a growing preference for accelerated results over gradual lifestyle changes.

While wedding-linked requests are not dominant, appearance-related pressures tied to marriage remain a factor. A recent report highlighting brides turning to such medications for rapid weight loss created much buzz, though clinicians say most enquiries are from a broader pool, including those seeking matches or dealing with obesity-linked fertility concerns.

Unregulated

Endocrinologist Dr Nishchitha K says, "A significant number may be accessing these drugs through wellness centres offering packaged programmes." Unauthorised wellness centres prescribing weight-loss injections are, incidentally, a worrying trend.

Among those without clear medical need, short-term goals dominate. "Some come looking to lose weight within three to six months, often with a specific target in mind," she says, adding that a couple of enquiries came from brides-to-be in the 25-35 age range.



City-based medical practitioners say Mounjaro prescriptions remain tightly regulated.

Doctors insist that prescriptions are governed by established clinical guidelines. "We only offer it to patients who meet criteria such as higher BMI or associated metabolic conditions," says Dr Nishchitha. "If they don't qualify, we do not prescribe it."

Dr Abhijit Bhograj, consultant endocrinologist, echoes this. "Most of our patients are medically eligible for these medications, typically with a BMI above 27. However, a small subset seeks them for purely cosmetic weight loss or as a quick fix, and we do not entertain such cases. Eligibility is ultimately based on an overall clinical assessment rather than BMI alone." He adds that he sees two to three consultations daily related to these drugs, "from people across all walks of life."

Dietician Jayashree Bafna says that when prescribed, medication is part of a broader plan. "Patients are referred for nutrition support alongside. It's not a standalone fix," she says, recalling a corporate client she advised against using the drug due to a lack of medical eligibility.

Social media, particularly Instagram, has played a significant role in piquing interest. "People see dramatic transformations but may not understand the supervision behind them," she adds.

Not without risks

Specialists warn that unsupervised use carries real risks. "These medications can cause side effects ranging from gastrointestinal issues to pancreatitis, gallbladder problems and nutritional deficiencies if not properly monitored," says Dr Akhil Deshmukh, hepatologist and liver transplant consultant.

"They are medical treatments requiring careful patient selection, dose titration and follow-up. They are not cosmetic quick fixes," he adds.

Doctors also caution against discontinuing the drug abruptly. "Weight regain is common if it is stopped without a structured plan," says Dr Nishchitha.

Musalman, a superhero fights hate with humour

A Bengaluru artist's long-running satirical comic series is out as a graphic novel

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

The origin story of India's first Muslim superhero is now out as a graphic novel. A Bengaluru artist first created the character nine years ago as someone who fights with humour, not fists or firepower.

Both the character and the book are called Musalman. His persona borrows from Superman. He wears orange shorts over a green suit and a flowing headgear instead of a cape. He can fly and shoot laser beams from his eyes.

But his real superpower is his sharp tongue. "He sees humour as an antidote to hatred," says its creator and writer, Falah Faisal. That said, his humour can "easily offend anyone", he adds.

Musalman's origin story reveals why he chooses dialogue and non-violence. He was born during communal riots, in which he lost his parents. He was rescued by a stranger and taken to a cricket academy, where he grew up. His alter ego is a budding left-arm fast bowler.

Character arc

One might assume Musalman was created as a response to rising Islamophobia, but its beginnings were more personal. "I am a Cutchi Memon Muslim. I grew up as an atheist, and I felt my faith was often imposed on me. So I imagined a Muslim character with edgy, even offensive humour, who was also critical of his faith. The character was a vehicle to present in-jokes within the community," says Faisal, a filmmaker, comedian and graphic novelist.

Musalman's turn as a saviour of the oppressed took shape in 2019, when Faisal, then a journalist, was covering the Citizenship Amendment Act protests. The pandemic, when members of the Islamic religious movement, Tablighi Jamaat, were labelled 'superspreaders' of Covid-19, further sharpened the character's purpose.

The space for satire and dissent has shrunk since Faisal began the series in 2017. Has he faced backlash? Does he self-censor his work? No, he says, before adding, "Perhaps because my Instagram following is small, and I write in English."

That said, a Musalman comic he created outside the main story arc earlier this year opened the floodgates of hate. Titled 'Inglorious Musalman', it shows the superhero visiting student activist Umar Khalid in jail to help him flee, arguing he may never get a fair trial. Khalid refuses, saying he still believes in the legal system. Faisal says the backlash was expected, and, in some ways, validating. "I broke past the liberal bubble with this one," he says.

Falah Faisal also cosplays as Musalman, the Muslim superhero he created in 2017.

Today, Faisal's Musalman universe serves as both observer and commentator on the politics and social injustices of the day, while also seeking to challenge, "if not shatter", stereotypes about Muslims.

The graphic novel, published by Yoda Press, brings together eight of the 20 short comic stories Faisal has self-published so far.

Available online and in bookstores.

Postcard-sized art on heritage

M S RISHABH SHANKAR
TEAM METROLIFE

Manjunath N Wali will exhibit a series of plein-air paintings of heritage sites in and around Bengaluru. The solo show, titled 'Keepers of Time — Postcards from Bangalore', opens on Saturday.

A watercolour artist, Wali has painted sites such as Ragigudda Sri Prasanna Anjaneya Swamy Temple, Bangalore Palace, the Peninsular Gneiss rock mass at Lalbagh, and Nandi Hills. Unlike his earlier works on large paper, he has created this series on postcard-sized paper. The idea of sketching these iconic landmarks outdoors came from a conversation with art historian H A Anil Kumar. He started the project in 2025 and in seven months, he had created 25 artworks. Wali says making postcard-sized paintings is challenging. They require custom-made brushes with tiny bristles, and demand precision and attention to detail. "Some works were painted entirely on site, while others I started outdoors and finished at home. Each piece took an average of two hours," he shares. The show is being presented by ArtenBlu.

Manjunath N Wali's painting of Bangalore Palace.

April 11 to 19 (Monday closed), 11 am to 6.30 pm, at MKF Museum of Art, Lavelle Road. Entry free. Call 90192 76294.

EVENTS

Art exhibition

More than 35 artists will showcase over 350 artworks at the 'ABC Summer Art Spread' from April 10 to 12, 10 am to 7 pm, at Rangoli Metro Art Centre, M G Road. Entry free. For details, visit @artbengalurucollective on Instagram.

Concert

S P Charan will perform Kannada, Telugu, Tamil and Hindi songs in a concert titled 'Evergreen S P B with S P Charan' on April 12, 6 pm, at Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval. Tickets online.

Stationery show

The Paper Sanctuary, a festival inspired by Japanese bookstores, will be held on April 11 and 12, 11 am to 9 pm, at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. It will have over 25 stalls selling stationery. Entry free. Details on @attagalatta on Instagram.

Sunday: Ballet meets Indian culture

A ballet show this weekend will celebrate India's many cultures, from the bazaars of Bengaluru and Delhi to the palaces of Rajasthan.

Titled 'A Tale of Dreams and Destinies', it is the seventh in-house production by the city-based Lewis Foundation of Classical Ballet.

Inspired by a story from 'One Thousand and One Nights', it follows a thief who finds a magical lamp and a princess who longs to step outside the palace. At its heart, the tale explores the power of following one's dreams.

Yana Lewis, the institute's artistic director, is from London and has lived in India for nearly 30 years. Having travelled from Kerala to Ladakh, she has drawn inspiration from the diverse architectural styles, textiles, and traditions she saw across India. For her, the show feels like home, and she has chosen to open it with a performance set to 'Vande mataram'.

The show features over 180 dancers.
PIC: MALLIKARJUN KATAKOL

Over a year in the making, the production features more than 180 dancers. One major challenge she faced was that her students' exam schedules overlapped, which made full-cast rehearsals difficult.

Despite this, Yana believes the show will appeal to all. It combines simple choreography with both emotional and upbeat scenes.

On April 12, 12.30 pm and 5.30 pm, at Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte Cross. Tickets online.

FIND YOUR VIBE

Feeling creative? Join these free sketching communities

ANANYA KOPPA
TEAM METROLIFE

Sketching groups in Bengaluru are giving the city's artistically inclined a community space to express themselves. Some have been around for close to two decades, while others are about a year old.

Cubbon Paints was formed three years ago. The group meets every Sunday at the park and spreads out in small groups.

Urban Sketchers Bengaluru

The 60-member group meets once a week and focuses on sketching on location. It draws participation from hobby artists aged five to 60. They have visited places like Vidhana Soudha, Chickpet, and K R Market. Their speciality is capturing movement, chaos, and everyday city life in real time. Participants point out that it is equally challenging and thrilling to capture multiple emotions at once through sketching and memorising. They host regular exhibitions and sketch walks, and are part of a nationwide network, with annual meets hosted by different cities each year.

Visit @uskbengaluru on Instagram.

Penciljam

Started in 2007, Penciljam sees around 50-60 participants during their weekly meets. It is open to all, with members aged five to 80. They sketch at heritage and public spaces like museums, parks, and churches, and avoid crowded areas. The meets usually also include a showcase, and they stay active online through the Discord app. In the past, they showcased their work at BLR Hubba and the National Gallery of Modern Art. They plan to introduce neighbourhood sketching meets and to bring art into workplaces.

Details on @penciljam on Instagram.

Drawn Out BLR

A recent collective set up by Indian Society of Landscape Architects, Bengaluru, this group meets every fourth Saturday. It has around 25 members. They focus on nature and outdoor spaces, rather than manmade structures. They have held sessions at Bugle Rock, Lalbagh lake, and the Hesaraghatta grasslands. The sessions are led by resource persons who give participants a brief explanation about the setting. They aim to document less-known places in and around Bengaluru, and plan to collaborate with other communities.

Check @drawnout.blr on Instagram.

Pose and Paint

This group, which focuses on figure drawing, meets every Sunday and draws about 10-12 participants. They work with live models from theatre and fitness backgrounds. Sessions are held in Cubbon Park, with participants specialising in both rapid and slow sketching. They also conduct indoor 'nude figurative' art sessions, following proper protocol. They celebrated their first anniversary in Auroville by a session with a local model. Next, they plan to collaborate with the Goan art community.

Visit @poseandpaint on Instagram.

Cubbon Paints

This is one of the largest art communities in India, with almost 80 people meeting every Sunday in Cubbon Park. They have been active for the past three years. They began with 15-20 people and grew organically. They follow a colour-theme every month and have exhibited their works at the art gallery in Rangoli Metro Art Centre, M G Road. They focus on mental wellness through art. The group will host a two-day exhibition in May.

Check @cubbonpaints on Instagram.

(Find Your Vibe is an occasional column that highlights positive community efforts and passion pursuits in Bengaluru. Send your suggestions at metrolife@deccanherald.co.in)

It's a perfect 600/600 for Commerce toppers

3 share top rank in Arts; one topper in Science

BENGALURU, DHNS

Adithi

Disha

Adithi A Bapu emerged as one of the toppers in Commerce with a perfect 600. Sharing her happiness, Adithi said that while she expected to be among the state's top scorers, securing full marks in all subjects still came as a surprise.

Adithi is a student of S B Mahaveer Jain PU College in Bengaluru. "I balanced board exam preparation with CA Foundation studies," she said.

Rather than adhering to strict study hours, she focused on daily revision.

"Every morning, I would revise what was taught the previous day. Solving previous years' question papers helped me a lot," she said.

"I enjoyed studying all subjects equally. Theory papers required more effort, whereas practical subjects were my strength," the girl said.

Another Commerce topper is Disha from Alva's PU College, Dakshina Kannada.

In the Arts stream, three students emerged as toppers for the state.

In the science stream, Princilla Cardoza from The Learning Centre PU College, Mangaluru, topped the state with 599 for 600.

Admission drive from today

School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa said that the admission drive for government colleges and schools will begin on Friday.

He thanked legislators across parties for the support they extended in improving the results.

No match for Maths in centum marks

This year, in Mathematics, the highest number of students (10,982) secured centum marks. Computer science is in second position with 6,232. Sanskrit comes third with 6,060, followed by Business Studies 5,542, Language Kannada 5,228 and Physics 3,224.

Exam 2: Mark the dates

- The second PUC examination 2 will be held from April 30 to May 13. Those who wish to improve their marks and those who have not completed the exams can appear. This year, a total of 16,653 students were absent for the exams.
- The students can apply for a scanned copy of the answer scripts from April 10 to 15, and download the scanned copy of the answer scripts from April 12 to 17.
- They can apply for revaluation and retotaling between April 13 and 19.

Anganwadi supervisor, daughter clear exam

MUDALGI (BELAGAVI DIST), DHNS: A mother and daughter from Kalloli village in the taluk have cleared the second PUC examination together.

Pallavi Parappa Girannavar, a Commerce student of Atharva Pre-University College, Nagnur, has passed with 78% marks. Her mother, Shilpa Parappa Girannavar, appeared as an external candidate from Government Pre-University College, Vaderhatti, in the Arts stream.

Shilpa, an Anganwadi supervisor for 16 years, said she resumed studies to complete her graduation. She had discontinued education after SSLC due to early marriage and family responsibilities, but was encouraged by her husband to continue.

Both mother and daughter prepared for the exams together, studying common subjects, like Kannada and English. Pallavi also helped her mother with other subjects. Shilpa said completing the exam alongside her daughter was a proud and happy moment.

Pallavi now aims to pursue B.Com and become a Chartered Accountant.

Shilpa Parappa Girannavar with her daughter Pallavi Parappa Girannavar.

GRT Jewellers unveils Akshaya Tritiya offers

A trusted name in south India's jewellery industry since 1964, GRT Jewellers continues to uphold its legacy of tradition, craftsmanship and trust. Known for its wide range of gold, diamond, platinum, silver and gemstone jewellery, the brand has built a strong presence with 66 showrooms across south India and a showroom in Singapore.

Akshaya Tritiya offers

GRT Jewellers announced its Akshaya Tritiya celebrations, bringing this deeply cherished occasion alive through a range of special offers curated to enhance the joy of auspicious beginnings for customers across Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

As part of its Akshaya Tritiya celebrations, GRT Jewellers announced a host of festive offers, headlined by an attractive 20 per cent off on wastage (VA) on gold jewellery, inviting customers to celebrate the joy of auspicious beginnings. Adding to the festive cheer, the brand is also offering Rs 100 extra per gram on old gold jewellery exchange, 12.50 per cent off on diamond and uncut diamond value (except solitaires), 25 per cent off on wastage (VA) on silver articles, 10 per cent off on the MRP of silver jewellery and no wastage (VA) on gold coins.

Customers can also pre-book jewellery and stay protected against price fluctuations, with GRT assuring that if the gold price drops on Akshaya Tritiya day (19th and 20th April), the difference amount will be refunded. The pre-booking offer requires 75 per cent advance payment.

G R 'Anand' Ananthapadmanabhan, Managing Director, GRT Jewellers, said, "Akshaya Tritiya is a deeply cherished occasion that symbolises prosperity, positivity and auspicious new beginnings for families. At GRT Jewellers, we have always sought to make such significant moments even more memorable by offering thoughtfully-curated jewellery collections along with value-driven festive benefits"

G R Radhakrishnan, Managing Director, GRT Jewellers, said, "Jewellery buying during Akshaya Tritiya holds deep emotional and traditional significance, as such purchases are often associated with blessings, prosperity and new beginnings. Our pre-booking facility with price protection reflects GRT Jewellers' commitment to ensuring a secure and reassuring purchase experience for customers".

Curated by DH Brandspot

P Ananth takes charge as SWR general manager

P Ananth

BENGALURU, DHNS: P Ananth on Thursday assumed charge as the General Manager of the Hubballi-headquartered South Western Railway (SWR), 85% of whose jurisdiction falls within Karnataka.

An Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers officer of the 1989 batch, Ananth succeeds Mukul Saran Mathur, who retired on superannuation in January. He had been working as Additional General Manager, SWR, since October 13, 2025.

Ananth, a Delhi native and a mechanical engineer by training, served as Director (Manpower Planning) in the Railway Board and as Chief Mechanical Engineer at Banaras Locomotive Works.

Int'l flyers will soon breeze through B'luru airport via biometric clearance

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Kempegowda International Airport has conducted technical trials of a contactless international travel system, marking a step towards biometric-enabled passenger processing for overseas journeys.

The trials, carried out by Bangalore International Airport Limited in collaboration with IndiGo, Digi Yatra Foundation and the International Air Transport Association, demonstrated an end-to-end digital travel flow. This included processes from ticket booking to airport entry and boarding, using biometric authentication.

The system is built on a Self-Sovereign Identity (SSI) framework, allowing passengers to verify their identity through facial recognition while retaining control over personal data. The trial also tested app-to-app integration for sharing boarding details, reducing the need for physical documents. The exercise forms part of the IATA's global proof-of-concept initiatives aimed at standardising contactless travel across international airports. Bengaluru is currently the only airport in India participating in this programme.

Airport authorities said the trials assessed the feasibility of scaling the system for international passengers, as traffic continues to rise. While biometric processing is already in use for domestic travel under Digi Yatra, its extension to international routes will require alignment with global standards and regulatory clearances.

"What we have demonstrated... is a glimpse into the future of international travel. We enabled a seamless, end-to-end digital journey where a passenger's identity is securely established in advance and verified across airport touchpoints using only their face," said Suresh Khadakbhavi, CEO of Digi Yatra.

Girls outshine boys again

Girls continued to outshine boys this year too, with a total pass of 81.17% as against the 73.85% recorded by boys.

Commerce students have achieved 85.11% pass, followed by science students with 78.12% and those with arts with 74.09%.

	Appeared	Passed
Boys	2,78,458	**2,32,928**
Girls	3,53,742	**3,13,770**

Pvt colleges perform better

Private unaided colleges continue to perform better. This year, they have achieved a 90.73% as against the 82.91% by aided and 78.72% by government PU colleges. BBMP colleges have 77.78%, and the residential PU colleges recorded 93.99%.

Distinction & first class

- The number of students who have achieved distinction (85%and above) has increased from 1,00,571 to 1,70,529 this year.
- A total of 2,95,385 students passed with First class (below 85% and 60% and above), and the number of students cleared with Second class (below 60% and 50% and above) declined a bit from 70969 to 63,957. There is a slight slip in Pass class (Pass with below 50 per cent) from 18845 to 16827 this year.

This year, the number of students failing in all the subjects has drastically reduced from the previous year's 30,923 to 1,772.

D M Archana

Sangeeta

Srishti Patil

Kottur PU college continues its dream run; 2 students bag 1st rank in Arts

KOTTUR (VIJAYANAGAR DISTRICT), DHNS

Indu PU College continued to shine in the Arts stream, with two students - D M Archana and Sangeeta emerging as toppers in II PU exams in the state. Archana and Sangeeta secured 598 marks out of 600. The college holds the distinction of clinching top ranks in arts stream for the past 11 years.

This year, as many as 23 students of Indu PU College made the cut into the top-10 ranks list.

Daughter of Hanumanthappa, a farmer, and Renukamma, a homemaker, Archana has set her sights on becoming an IAS officer. "My parents have made a lot of sacrifices. Despite severe financial constraints, they funded my education and motivated me to excel in academics. Their struggles spurred me to do well. I want to become a KAS officer, a beaming Archana told *DH*.

A native of Balaganur village in Harapanahalli taluk, Archana had secured 78.24% in SSLC exams.

Sangeeta, daughter of Shweta an anganwadi worker and Shekhargouda Policepatil, a marginal farmer from Mangalore village in Koppal district, credited her success in the board exams to the hard yards she put in and the blessings of her parents.

She nurtures an ambition to become a judge. "I will pursue my graduation in Dharwad, take up LL.B and crack the judges exams."

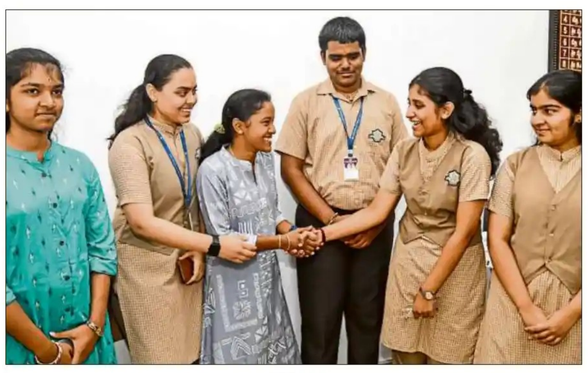
Kalaburagi girl shines

Srishti Mallinath Patil of HKE Society's Veeramma Gangasiri College for Women in Kalaburagi also managed to secure the top rank in the arts stream, reports DHNS from Kalaburagi.

Daughter of Mallinath Patil and Savita, who runs a hotel in Gazipur, Srishti had scored 95.3% result in SSLC exams. Like most of the toppers in arts stream, Srishti also has set her sights on cracking UPSC exams.

Student gets 105 for 100 in Sociology!

SINDHANUR, (RAICHUR DISTRICT) DHNS: In the second PUC results, a student from Aniketan Pre-University College in the town was awarded 105 marks out of 100. The student, Venkatesh, received these marks in Sociology. He was given 85 marks in theory and 20 marks as internal assessment, taking his total to 105.


The students of Sadvidya PU College, who excelled in II PU exams, share their joy, in Mysuru on Thursday.
DH PHOTO/ANUP RAGH T

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
ELECTRICAL WORK

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No. SUR/TD/T/2026/09. Name of Work**: Electrical TRD portion of work in connection with **1)** Proposal for conversion of Tramway OHE to Conventional OHE in Solapur Division & **2)** Wadi yard - Shifting of point & Starter signals by 40 m towards Solapur end for increasing CSL of NRD lines. **Estimated cost**: ₹ 2,78,14,442.84. **Bid Security**: ₹ 5,56,300/-. **Completion Period**: 12 months. **Validity of offer**: 60 Days. **Date & time of tender closing on website**: 07.05.2026 at 15.00 hours.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur
AK/Sur-22

Traveling with dangerous and explosive goods is a punishable offense

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tender Notice No. 4631-GRC-CE-C-01-15-2026, dated 09.04.2026. e-Tender is invited by Chief Engineer(Con)/01/ Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043, S.E.Railway for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work. Following tender has been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** The tender will be closed at 12.00 hrs. on due date. **Brief Description of Works :** Composite work for Execution of earthwork in Formation & Cutting, Construction of Minor Bridges, New Platform, Extension of Foot Over Bridge, P.Way Track Linking Works, supply of Ballast, EI Building, other service Buildings, Approach Road, side drains, Protection works, shifting of ART/ARME location etc. complete in connection with the Yard Remodeling works at Bokaro Steel City station yard including electrical works as per the approved ESP & SIP in Adra Division of S.E. Railway. **Approx. Cost :** ₹ 37.07 Crore. **Bid Security :** ₹ 74,14,800/- **Completion period:** 12 months. **Closing Date :** 06.05.2026. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps. gov.in** for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **N.B. :** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders. **(PR-28)**

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on X@SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in
Tender Notice
PUB025

Sr. DME/Co-ord/SC acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tender for the below mentioned work up to 11.00 hrs of **30.04.2026.**

Tender No and Date SC/CM.186. C&W.HighPressureJetSC Dated: 06.04.2026 **Name of the Work** Supply, Installation and Commissioning of High Pressure Jet Cleaning System at WS 2&5 at Washing Siding of Secunderabad Coaching Depot **Estimated Value of the Tender** Rs. 40,02,088.00/- **EMD Value** Rs. 80,100.00/- **Tender Type** OPEN TENDER **Completion of the work** Six months + Warranty period of 02 years **Last date of submission of bids** 30.04.2026 by 11.00 hrs

The Tenderers should participate through e-tendering only and no manual offers may be considered. The Tender conditions/other details, Tender document, Corrigendum are available on the IREPS website **https://www.ireps.gov.in** The Tender notice is also displayed in the Notice board located in the office of the Sr. DME/Co-ord/SC, which can be seen on all working days.

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer /Co-Ord/Secunderabad
A036

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand.
Ph No.: +91-651-2225878,
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752, e-mail Id-juidcolimited@gmail.com

NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/Ku to Albt/Road/695 Date- 09.04.2026

e-Procurement (Tender Notice)
2nd Call of Tender

1	Name of Work	Development of Kutchery Chowk to Albert Ekka Chowk via Shaheed Chowk (Resurfacing/ Refurbishment work of Road)
2	Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
3	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 7,59,93,530.00/- (Rupees Seven Crore Fifty Nine Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Five Hundred Thirty) only.
4	Time of Completion	06 Months
5	Tender Fee and Bid Security to be submitted online	Tender document fee: Rs 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand) only. **Non-Refundable.** Bid Security: Rs 7,60,000.00/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Sixty Thousand) only
6	Date/Time of Publication of Tender on Website	10.04.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.
7	Last Date/Time of Bid Submission	04.05.2026 at 17:00 Hrs.
8	Date/Time of opening of Bid	05.05.2026 at 17:00 Hrs.
9	Bid Submission Address	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Limited, JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi, Jharkhand- 834001
10	Helpline Number of e-procurement Cell	0651-2225878

Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Ltd, Ranchi

PR 377087 (Urban Development and Housing) 26-27 (D)

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH TIRUPATI
(An Autonomous Institution of National Importance under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

RECRUITMENT FOR THE POSTS OF "ASSISTANT PROFESSOR GRADE-II"

IISER Tirupati invites online applications from Indian nationals having an excellent academic record for the post of Assistant Professor Grade-II on a purely contractual basis.

For detailed advertisement, please visit **www.iisertirupati.ac.in »Careers»Faculty.**

The last date for submission of online applications is **April 30, 2026.**

Advt. No.27/2026/IISER-T/Rect./09.04.2026

Sd/- Registrar

CBC 21377/12/0002/2627

ADVERTISEMENT NO. 01/2026

FILLING UP THE POST OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER & ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (OFFICIAL LANGUAGE) THROUGH TRANSFER ON DEPUTATION IN KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN

Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) an autonomous body under Ministry of Education intends to fill the 01 (One) post of Executive Engineer in Pay Level -11 and 01 (One) post of Assistant Director (Official Language) in Pay Level -10, through transfer on Deputation. For more details i.e. the eligibility criteria, qualification and terms & conditions visit website **www.kvsangathan.nic.in** of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan & Edition dated 4th April, 2026 of Employment News.

Additional Commissioner (Admn.)

CBC 21106/12/0001/2627

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO) CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
Plot No.12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058. Ph:080-28094196, 4184,4541,4542

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, **item rate E-Tender** is invited from Contractors of appropriate class for the following work.

NIT No.	**ISTRAC/CMC/MAINT/C/ETN-03/2026-27 Dated:09.04.2026**
Name of Work	**Strengthening the earthern embankments on South Side of AFFF-Testing Ground at IDSN, Byalalu, ISTRAC, Bengaluru (Civil Works)**
Estimate cost put to tender	**Rs. 24.65 Lakhs**
Tender Document details	**E-Tender**
Period of completion	**45 (Forty five) days**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 14.30 hrs. on 10.04.2026 to 16.30 hrs. on 23.04.2026**
Bid clarifications	**From 15.30 hrs on 10.04.2026 to 16.30 hrs. on 24.04.2026**
Last date and time of reply to Bid clarification	**Up to 16.30 hrs on 27.04.2026**
Last date & time of receipt of tenders	**Up to 14.30 hrs on 28.04.2026**
Due date and time of opening of tenders	**29.04.2026 after 11.30 hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 49,300/-**

2. For eligibility crteria and others details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website: **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE No. 07/SBC/26 of 30.03.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	Bengaluru (SBC) - Jolarpettai (JTJ) section: **Sub Work-I:** Bengaluru (SBC) - Jolarpettai (JTJ) section: Proposed construction of pedestrian subway with approach road at km 325/800-900 size of 1x5.0x2.75m (Barrel length - 30.0m) by Air pushing method. **Sub Work-II:** Proposed construction of pedestrian subway with approach road at km 321/200-300 size of 1x5.0x4.0m (Barrel length - 30.0m) by Air pushing method in connection with the work of Bengaluru (SBC) - Jolarpettai (JTJ) section : Construction of pedestrian subways in connection with safety fencing for speed increase upto 130kmph (Total 14 subways). Maintenance period is 4 years.	Rs. 8,78,21,956/-
2	Bengaluru (SBC) - Jolarpettai (JTJ) section: **Sub Work-I:** Bengaluru (SBC) - Jolarpettai (JTJ) section: Proposed construction of pedestrian subway with approach road at km 292/000-100 size of 1x5.0x4.50m (Barrel length - 30.0m) by Air pushing method. **Sub Work-II:** Proposed construction of pedestrian subway with approach road at km 291/000-100 size of 1x5.0x4.0m (Barrel length - 30.0m) by Air pushing method in connection with the work of Bengaluru (SBC) - Jolarpettai (JTJ) section: Construction of pedestrian subways in connection with safety fencing for speed increase upto 130kmph (Total 14 subways). Maintenance period is 4 years.	Rs. 8,14,97,277/-
3	Bengaluru (SBC) - Jolarpettai (JTJ) section: **Sub Work-I:** Construction of RUB in lieu of LC No. 106 at km 263/000-100 with RCC Box between Gudupalli (GDP) - Bisanattam (BSM) stations in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Bangarapet (BWT) section. RCC box in size of 1 x 5.00m x 3.0m (Barrel length 24.48 mtrs) by Rolling/ Launching method. **Sub Work-II:** Construction of RUB in lieu of LC No. 107 at km 263/700-800 with RCC Box between Gudupalli (GDP) - Bisanattam (BSM) stations in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Bangarapet (BWT) section. RCC box in size of 1 x 5.00m x 4.50m (Barrel length 24.48 mtrs) by Rolling/ Launching method. Maintenance period is 4 years.	Rs. 9,61,46,866/-
4	**Sub Work-I:** KSR Bengaluru: Providing and fixing balcony grills in 455 (A-X), 456 (A-X), 457 (A-X), 463 (A-T), 493 (A-P), 491 (A-L), 492 (A-L) in MG colony, Bengaluru (SBC). (Total - 164 units). **Sub Work-II:** Bengaluru (SBC) - Mysuru (MYS) section: Construction of gang tool cum rest room (Framed structure) as per approved drawing - 1 No. at LC No. 62 between Maddur (MAD) - Hanakere (HNK) stations including electrical portion in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Mandya (MYA) sub division. Maintenance period is 3 years. Composite Tender.	Rs. 1,06,31,277/-
5	Bengaluru (SBC) – Mysuru (MYS) Section: Manufacturing, supply and stacking of machine crushed Track ballast including loading at Yeliyur (Y) depot (52850 Cum) in connection with the work of 1. Bengaluru (SBC) - Mysuru (MYS) : TBR – 43.20kms from 62/000 – 107/700 up and 81/750-85/250 dn line. 2. Mysuru (MYS) section: TBR - 0.8 km (loop lines) and TBR for 16 points and crossings.	Rs. 4,60,22,837/-
6	**Sub Work-I :** Chikka Banavara (BAW) - Hassan (HAS) section : Renewal of existing 52/60kg conventional SEJ to thick web SEJ - 40 numbers. **Sub Work-II :** Chikka Banavara (BAW) - Hassan (HAS) section : TTR (TWS + WCMS) of existing 6 numbers of 1 in 12 and 1 number of 1 in 16 points with TWS and WCMS, total 7 sets at Hirisave (HISE) and Channarayapatna (CNPA) yards in SSE/PWAY/Channarayapatna (CNPA) section. **Sub Work-III :** Chikka Banavara (BAW) - Hassan (HAS) section : TTR of existing 1 in 12 curved switch (5 numbers) and 1 in 16 curved switch (2 numbers) with TWS, weldable CMS xing, total 7 sets at Nelamangala (NMGA) and Solur (SOLR) yards in SSE/PWAY/Kunigal (KIGL) section. **Sub Work-IV :** Bengaluru (SBC) - Salem (SA) section : Track work in connection with the work of Additional loop line at Karuvalli (KVLR) station	Rs. 1,00,50,314/-
7	Divisional Engineer/South/Bengaluru (SBC) Section: Karuvalli (KVLR) : Widening of old platform, Additional loop line 1 no, approach road(500x6m), Retaining wall for platform and toe wall for embankment, Earthwork, Extension of 2 nos of Box culvert (Br.no 43,44), Dismantling of old station building, cable hut room, divyangjan toilet, public toilet and S&T building at Karuvalli (KVLR) station(Km 22/800-21/800). (Composite work). Maintenance period is 12 months	Rs. 3,64,44,295/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 24-04-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/15/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination, Bengaluru**

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform ticktes, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

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Congress MLC accuses BJP leaders of making personal attacks on Kharge

Ramesh Babu

BENGALURU, DHNS: Congress lawmaker Ramesh Babu on Thursday accused BJP leaders of resorting to personal attacks and "crossing acceptable limits" against AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and minister Priyank Kharge.

In a statement, Babu said Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and Leaders of the Opposition R Ashoka and Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, had targeted Kharge's remarks during the election campaign, with some resorting to personal criticism of his family.

He alleged that certain leaders who previously worked with Kharge in the Congress were now attacking him for political gain after joining the BJP.

Babu also criticised former MP Pratap Simha and MLC C T Ravi and Suresh Kumar, accusing them of acting out of political compulsion.

He further alleged that BJP leaders were unable to counter Congress ideologically and were instead engaging in motivated attacks under the influence of the Sangh Parivar, while asserting that the Congress would respond politically.

Priyank Kharge

Let RSS file case against Kharge on its letterhead: Priyank

KALABURAGI, DHNS: Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge questioned why the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) did not register a complaint against AICC Chief Mallikarjun Kharge regarding the 'poisonous snake' remarks and instead let other to do so.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, the minister said that RSS should file a case by giving in writing in its letterhead if it is a registered organisation.

"Our principle is equal life for all and equal share for all. We follow the principles of Buddha, Basava and Ambedkar. Some are against these principles and are anti-Constitution. Our personal opinion is that it is not right. After all, what did Mallikarjun Kharge say?" he asked.

Priyank asked if anyone would pour milk if they came across a poisonous snake.

"BJP has majority in Parliament. Let it be said that dalits, minorities and tribals are not from our country. It hugs UAE, wants oil and urea from them. That's why saffron also comes in large quantities from there. So let's stop all business dealings with Muslim countries. Why such double policy?" Priyank asked and said that the saffron party was not able to justify its words.

"Please tell me about the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy that Mallikarjuna Kharge and Priyank Kharge will be jailed," he said

"If they have the strength, let them bring a squad and arrest us," the minister challenged.

Legislative Council members Tippannappa Kamakanur and Jagadeva Guttedara and GESCOM President Praveena Patil Harawala were present.

Byelections conclude peacefully in Bagalkot, Davangere

Davangere South sees 68.55% voter turnout, Bagalkot 68.70%

BENGALURU, DHNS

Voting in the bypolls to Davangere South and Bagalkot Assembly constituencies that concluded on Thursday late evening recorded a poll percentage of 68.55% and 68.70% respectively. It was 69.48% and 69.46% in the 2023 polls.

While, polling remained incident free, unverified videos of men distributing money to voters near polling booths have gone viral leading to BJP and SDPI accusing the Congress of misusing the "money and muscle power" to win the bypolls. They have demanded the election commission of prompt action.

The bypolls, necessitated by the demise of sitting Congress MLAs Shamanur Shivashankarappa and H Y Meti, saw a high-decibel campaign with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and senior ministers literally camping in Bagalkot till the last day of outdoor campaigning.

The ruling Congress hopes to retain both the seats while the BJP wants to humble the ruling party, which has fielded Samarth Mallikarjun (Lingayat), incumbent's grandson in D'gere South, and Umesh Meti (Kuruba), incumbent's son in Bagalkot, continuing its practice of nominating kin of deceased leaders. The BJP has chosen a party worker Srinivas T Dasakariappa (ST) and former MLA Veeranna Charantimath (Lingayat), respectively.

In Davangere South, the Congress faces the prospect of division of the decisive Muslim votes (around 80,000) after denying a ticket to the community. The resentment was obvious when Housing minister Zameer Ahmed Khan avoided campaigning fearing a backlash from the community.

Women voters wait in a queue to exercise their franchise for the Legislative Assembly byelection at a polling station in Bagalkot on Thursday. DH PHOTO

Anis Pasha from KPCC legal Cell admitted that some young Muslim voters might have voted for the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI). Also, the Congress fears the BJP could split the Ahinda vote too with its nominee belonging to the decisive ST community. If BJP makes the cut, it will end the decades-long dominance of the Shamanur family.

While Shivashankarappa had won by a margin of 27,888 votes, the slow pace of voting in bypolls made Congress panic and release a poster of Samarth urging voters to come out and vote.

Meanwhile, Bagalkot will be a test of Siddaramaiah's popularity as the uncontested Ahinda leader as the previous winning margin was only 5,878 votes. A consolidation of Ahinda and Muslim votes, while breaching the Lingayat vote bank of the BJP, has been the Congress' strategy.

The bypoll result has little impact on the government's stability but it is a prestige battle for the top leaders as a win would help Siddaramaiah, locked in a power tussle with his deputy and KPCC chief D K Shivakumar, to establish his dominance in the party and the government. A BJP victory bolsters state BJP chief B Y Vijayendra's chances of leading the party in 2028 too. The BJP put up a united fight with former chief minister B S Yediyurappa leading the campaign.

The bypoll results on May 4, could be a referendum to the Congress government's performance and perhaps a precursor to the 2028 Assembly elections too.

'Cash-for-votes' in Bagalkot; BJP nominee alleges malpractice

BAGALKOT, DHNS

A video allegedly showing a Congress worker distributing cash to voters in Bagalkot went viral on social media, prompting sharp criticism from the BJP, which accused the ruling party of electoral malpractice.

In the video, a man is seen collecting chits and handing out money to voters in Rajiv Gandhi Nagar and Vambe Colony in Navanagar area. As word of the cash distribution spread, large crowds — particularly women — gathered there, holding chits and seeking money in exchange for votes.

The footage shows the Congress worker leaving the area hurriedly in a car as the crowd swelled.

BJP candidate Veeranna Charantimath has accused the Congress of using money and muscle power to influence voters. He said he would raise the issue with the district election officer.

A case has been registered against Congress leader Jaffer Bepari by flying squad officer Vitthal Nayak, on the reported distribution of money to voters.

"Upon receiving information that money was being distributed in Vambe Colony, I went there with a team. However, no one was found there. Based on the videos, a case has been registered for violation of the model code of conduct," he said.

Videos of money distribution in D'gere go viral

DAVANGERE, DHNS: The Davangere police registered a case following a complaint by the flying squad on the alleged distribution of cash to voters.

A video featuring a group of people distributing cash to voters near a house at Akhtar Raza Circle went viral on social media.

Another video featuring a group of women from Bashanagar staging a protest, saying they would not cast their votes as they were not given cash, while others in the locality got money, also went viral.

44 pvt bus operators detained for flouting safety norms

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Transport Department has begun a special drive checking for compliance of safety measures by the private bus operators. In the last two days, the department has detained 44 private bus operators for flouting safety norms.

Last month, Transport Department, issued a directive calling for heightened safety measures in light of recent fatal accidents, particularly involving sleeper buses. The department had initially set a February 28 deadline, which had later been extended to March 31.

The directive has called for the removal of the partition door behind the driver in all sleeper buses; installation of fire extinguishers of at least 10 kg in all sleeper buses; display of a design layout drawing; clear indication of emergency exits and location of fire extinguishers and roof hatches, in a place easily visible and readable to passengers in all buses. These were just some of the safety measures.

Additionally, luggage carriers and ladders on the bus are also to be removed. "Currently, we're focusing on the luggage carriers, ladders and partition doors, and the availability of fire extinguishers. For buses that are not compliant, we're detaining them, and we are carrying out some modifications such as removing the luggage carrier and ladders," M P Omkareshwari, Additional Commissioner of Transport (Enforcement, South) told *DH*. She added that currently the luggage carriers act as a barrier to roof hatches which are crucial during emergencies. "In the future, we're also planning on cracking down on buses that don't have roof hatches. A bus over 12 metres long is required to have three hatches," she added.

Currently, 11 officers have been deployed across the city to carry out checks on both regular and sleeper buses coming into the city. This also includes buses registered outside Karnataka.

As per transport officials, a majority of the private bus operators are yet to modify operational buses as per the prescribed safety norms despite the deadline being extended.

A crane being used by the Transport Department to remove luggage carriers.

ONE FOR POSTERITY

Visitors take selfies with the Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla (Centre) during the international conference on 'Spacecraft Mission Operations' in Bengaluru on Thursday. AFP PHOTO

Boost to truce as Israel to talk with Lebanon

Iran, From Page 1

Iran's parliament speaker, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, warned Thursday that continued Israeli attacks on Lebanon would bring "explicit costs and STRONG responses" in a social media post.

Russia's state TASS news agency quoted an unnamed senior Iranian source as saying on Thursday that Iran will allow no more than 15 vessels a day to pass through the Strait of Hormuz under the ceasefire agreement.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei said in a statement read out on state TV that Iran will move the management of the Strait of Hormuz into a new phase, "Iran is not seeking war but will not forfeit its rights and considers all resistance fronts as a unified entity," he added.

However, US President Donald Trump told NBC News on Thursday he was "very optimistic" about a peace deal with Iran, and that Israel was "scaling back" strikes in Lebanon.

Speaker Ghalibaf has been discussed as a possible negotiator who could meet US Vice President JD Vance this weekend in Islamabad. The White House has said Vance would lead the delegation for talks starting Saturday.

Despite the fragile and disputed nature of the ceasefire, it appeared to have halted weeks of missile and drone attacks by Iran on its neighbours and Israel, with no new launches reported Thursday.

There were no reports of strikes by the US or Israel targeting Iran.

Amid competition, state fast-tracks...

Business approvals, From Page 1

Since 2022, Karnataka has approved 2,028 project proposals with a total investment of Rs 5.11 lakh crore and the promise of generating 7.16 lakh jobs. "Most of them are big projects that require 3-5 years for implementation," the minister said. According to government data, 81 projects worth Rs 69,564 crore have landed, creating 1.06 lakh jobs.

IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge stressed the delivery of the reforms.

"The new timelines show the government's clear intent. We need to ensure that every department and district is in line with this," he said.

Timelines for two approvals — permission to cut and transport trees — have not been revised yet as they require legal changes. The forest department has been asked to move the necessary amendments, Patil said.

At present, obtaining permission to cut trees takes 90 days. It is 15 days in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, while Tamil Nadu takes 18-37 days. To transport trees, it takes 42 days to obtain a permit against 20 days in Andhra Pradesh.

HC directs Mysuru DC to stop construction activities on Chamundi temple premises

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has directed Deputy Commissioner of Mysuru to forthwith stop all construction activities of whatsoever nature at the disputed Chamundeshwari temple premises, without any exception.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum has passed this interim order in a pending petition filed by Pramoda Devi Wadiyar.

"It is made clear that any further violation of the interim orders of this court or breach of the undertaking recorded will be viewed with utmost seriousness and would amount to aggravated contempt, warranting initiation of appropriate proceedings against the respondent–Deputy Commissioner in accordance with law," the court said in the order.

Pramoda Devi Wadiyar had filed the petition in 2024 challenging the constitution of Shree Chamundeshwari Kshetra Development Authority through a legislation. It was contended that the constitution of the Authority is intended to divest her rights on the temple.

In October 2024, the high court had issued a direction that any action should be carried out after prior permission obtained from the court. On January 14, 2026, the court further modified the order restraining construction activities.

The Deputy Commissioner filed an affidavit that the undertaking in the previous hearings cannot be sustained in view of subsequent developments and release of funds by the Union government.

The court noted that despite clear, unequivocal and binding directions, the material on record discloses that construction activity has continued at the disputed site.

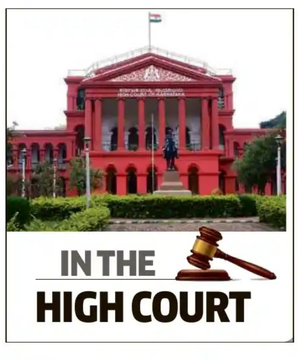
"Orders passed by constitutional courts are not advisory in nature but are binding mandates that carry with them an obligation of strict compliance by all instrumentalities of the state.

"The executive cannot arrogate to itself the discretion to disregard or dilute judicial orders on the pretext of administrative exigencies or subsequent financial allocations. Such a stand strikes at the very foundation of the rule of law and the doctrine of separation of powers, and, if permitted, would render the authority of this Court nugatory.

"The Deputy Commissioner, being an officer of the state, is duty-bound to act in aid of and in strict conformity with the orders of this court, and any attempt to justify non-compliance amounts to a clear defiance of judicial authority," the court said.

The court has directed the Deputy Commissioner to place on record, a detailed affidavit furnishing complete accounts of the expenditure incurred out of the sum of Rs 47 crore, released by the Union government under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme, including particulars of works undertaken, amounts disbursed, and the present stage of execution.

HC quashes trespass crime against drone research company



BENGALURU, DHNS

The high court of Karnataka has quashed the investigation for trespass against a company engaged in research and development in the field of Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS).

The Doddaballapur police had registered a suo motu FIR against NewSpace Research and Technologies after a drone belonging to the company glided beyond the green zone area and landed in a neighbouring property in January 2026.

The company is carrying out research and development of testing drones and unmanned systems on a 48-acre of land obtained on lease at Doddaballapur, Bengaluru Rural District, for the last five years.

On January 29, 2026, a lightweight research prototype with an estimated weight of seven kg, fitted with a commercially available Chinese battery, suffered a battery malfunction during a routine test. As a result, it glided beyond the boundary of the leased land and landed into a neighbouring property.

A beat constable attached to Doddaballapur police station reported the incident and a suo motu FIR was registered for offences under BNS sections 329 (trespass) and 125. The petitioner submitted that the FIR did not mention any culpable human entry with the intention of trespass and that there is no allegation of any rash or negligent human act and no specific endangerment to any identified person to invoke section 125. It was further submitted that the copy of the FIR was not supplied despite repeated requests and was indicated that the FIR was uploaded online.

After perusing the material, Justice M Nagaprasanna noted that criminal trespass, predicates liability of intent to commit an offence or to intimidate, insult or annoy the owner of the property. "The recovery is of a drone. Mere recovery of a drone, without anything more, cannot, by any stretch of imagination, satisfy the ingredients of the offence. Therefore, Section 329 of the BNS is loosely laid against the petitioner," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

The court further said section 125 has been attributed to an inanimate object. "Criminal justice system cannot be invoked based on speculative or mechanical attribution of the ingredients of the crime—rash and negligent human act to an inanimate object," the court observed.

Insofar as the failure to provide a copy of the FIR to the accused, the court said it is the law declared by the Apex Court that an accused is entitled to obtain a copy of the FIR without undue delay.

"Mere assertion that FIR is uploaded online cannot be a substitute for compliance with the obligation. The denial of essential particulars concerning the FIR, renders the rights to access, illusory and undermines the very purpose of transparency envisaged by the Court. It is, therefore, imperative that all Police Stations scrupulously adhere to the mandate of furnishing the copy of the FIR or if it is online, furnishing complete details of the FIR. Any deviation in this regard by the Police Stations would be viewed seriously and those Station House Officers or the Officers in-charge of the Police Station who would not follow this, would become open to initiation of departmental enquiry against those erring officers," the court said.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at one or two places over the State.
Forecast April 10: Mainly clear sky becoming partly cloudy sky towards evening.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	35.0	18.5	0.0
Bidar	36.8	21.5	0.0
Vijayapura	37.0	20.0	0.0
Dharwad	35.6	19.6	0.0
Haveri	36.4	22.4	0.0
Kalaburagi	39.2	25.2	0.0
Raichur	38.4	24.0	0.0
COASTAL			
Honnavar	33.0	23.8	0.0
Karwar	34.0	25.1	0.0
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	33.2	25.5	0.0

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	31.1	18.2	0.0
Bengaluru	35.2	24.6	0.0
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	--	--	--
Chikkamagaluru	--	--	--
Chitradurga	36.2	22.2	0.0
Davangere	36.5	20.5	0.0
Hassan	33.8	14.8	7.3
Mysuru	36.0	20.2	0.0
Madikeri	--	--	--
Kolar	35.0	21.2	0.0
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	30.0	19.0	NIL
Kolkata	32.0	23.0	NIL
Mumbai	31.0	26.0	NA
Chennai	33.0	27.0	NA
Pune	36.0	23.0	NA
Hyderabad	35.0	24.0	NA
Th'puram	32.0	25.0	NIL

3 workers die, 4 injured in Hulikal Ghat road landslide

HOSANAGAR (SHIVAMOGGA DISTRICT), DHNS: Three workers died on the spot after a massive landslide occurred on the Hulikal Ghat Road in the taluk on Thursday evening while road works were underway.

Four other workers engaged in the work were seriously injured and admitted to a private hospital.

The deceased workers are said to be from Haveri district, but their identities are yet to be confirmed, police said.

The incident occurred near a hairpin bend close to the Chandikamba temple, where road repair work was in progress. A sudden landslide is believed to have caused the accident.

Rescue operations have been launched to check if more workers are trapped under the debris. Police have rushed to the spot and registered a case.

Khandre moots tracking app like M-STrIPES for trekkers

Forest minister favours group insurance for trekkers

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has called for the creation of a tracking app for trekkers in the light of recent incidents of missing trekkers.

On Thursday, the minister suggested that an app be created, on the lines of e-Gastu and M-STrIPES, which have already been developed by the department. "Similar to apps already developed, a temporary tracking app can be created and installed on the mobile phones of trekkers. This will make it easier to find anyone who goes missing," read an official notification from the minister. The app is expected to be launched in the coming months, according to department officials.

Additionally, Khandre has suggested providing group insurance for trekkers and wireless communication devices to guides. "Since we already have the tracking technology that is being used in our apps like M-STrIPES, we will use the same to develop the new app. Regarding insurance, trekkers will be able to opt for it while getting the trekking permit," an official told *DH*.

These announcements come in the backdrop of two recent cases — a Kerala woman who went missing in the Tadiandamol forest of Kodagu district for four days and a minor girl, also from Kerala, who went missing in the Chandradrona hills of Chikkamagaluru.

Trekkers have welcomed the move, calling it a "much-needed intervention".

"If there is a government app that can track trekkers and send a rescue team when needed, it will go a long way in improving safety measures. Across the globe, several such measures have already been put in place. An automated tracking system is what is needed," said Upayan Chatterjee of Indiahikes.

Clement Dominic, operations manager at Bangalore Mountaineering Club, stressed the importance of maintaining markings across both minor and major treks.

'Proper markings must'

"Some treks near Bengaluru have proper markings, but the farther you go from the city, you don't find any markers. Rather than developing an app, it will help more if the forest department maps all authorised treks with proper markings and also maintains them, ensuring they don't fade away after a while. An app may have glitches, but physical mapping will always help," he said.

Guides to get walkie-talkies

Forest officials will impart training to guides to do a headcount at specified locations along the route of the trek.

"We will provide walkie-talkies to guides and supervisors for real-time monitoring of trekkers. This will help in immediate communication with the base camp in case of emergency," Eshwar Khandre told DH.

For trek routes inside forests, Khandre said, signals may not be easily available. Therefore, the tracking app on the trekkers' mobile phones may not be a sure-shot solution.

"In such a scenario, wireless communication will come in handy," he said.

Plaint by woman against husband over sexual assault on daughter: SC orders CBI probe

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has directed the CBI to take over the investigation into a 2024 FIR lodged by a woman in Bengaluru alleging sexual assault of the girl child, studying in Class V, by her estranged husband.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Vishwanathan noted, this is the most unfortunate case pending before this court for two years.

"This litigation has something to do with a matrimonial dispute between the husband and wife and in the process, their daughter, a young girl aged 11 as on date is being tormented for no good reason. There are other litigations between the parties pending in the High Court of Karnataka. We do not propose to say anything in that regard," the bench said in its order on April 7, 2026.

Visitation rights

As per the record, the court noted that the husband succeeded all throughout in so far as the custody of the minor daughter was concerned, of course, subject to visitation rights being given to the mother.

However, one fine day, i.e., on March 28, 2024, the mother lodged a First Information Report with the Jayaprakash Nagar Police Station, Sub-Division - Jayanagar, under various provisions of the IPC and Section 75 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Section 10 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

In 2025, the court tried to convince the parties to work out something which would be in the absolute interest of the minor daughter and handed over the custody to the mother and stayed the proceedings in the FIR.

In such circumstances, the bench said, "We want the FIR lodged by the mother, i.e., the respondent before us to be investigated in the right direction and in accordance with law."

The CBI, for the purpose of effective and meaningful investigation should constitute a committee, headed by an officer not below the rank of DIG nominated by the Director, CBI. The second member in the committee should be a well renowned lady psychologist, the bench said.

"Insofar as other members of the committee are concerned, including lady doctor, etc, we leave it to the better discretion of the CBI. We have thought fit to resort to this process keeping in mind the sensitivity of the entire issue," the bench said.

CBI investigation

The court directed the CBI to commence with the investigation after constituting the committee at the earliest and file a status report before this court. It clarified the CBI would not take any coercive steps against both the parties, except that they should cooperate in the investigation. The bench scheduled the matter for consideration on July 17, 2026.

Karnataka govt not giving land, 'hindering' railway projects: Somanna

BENGALURU, DHNS

A railway officer explains about remodeling works to Union Ministers H D Kumaraswamy and V Somanna at the KSR Bengaluru railway station on Thursday. X/V SOMANNA

Kumaraswamy, Somanna and others during a window trailing inspection by a special train from Bengaluru to Mysuru. X/HD KUMARASWAMY

Minister of State for Railways V Somanna on Thursday alleged "non-cooperation" from Karnataka for some of the important railway projects.

Somanna, along with Union Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises HD Kumaraswamy, conducted a window trailing inspection of the Bengaluru-Mysuru railway line by a special train.

Both inspected the modernisation works, funding requirements, facilities and railway tracks at the Settihalli, Maddur, Hanakere, Mandya, Yeliyur, Byadarahalli, Pandavapura and Srirangapatna railway stations, according to the railways.

Speaking in Mandya, Somanna alleged that the state was "hindering" railway projects by not providing necessary support, including land acquisition.

Addressing the media in Mysuru later, he claimed that the state had "refused" to cooperate on the 142-km Bengaluru (Hejjala)-Chamarajanagar line, which will pass through Kanakapura and Malavalli and cost Rs 1,200 crore. In December 2024, the state wrote a letter refusing to cooperate, he added. He claimed that there has been no cooperation even for the Mysuru–Kushalnagar railway line, though the railways will continue the project.

Somanna promised necessary steps to construct a new railway station in Maddur near the KSRTC bus stand on horticulture department land, adding that railway officials will inspect the site within a week. He said estimates for developing railway stations in Mandya district within six months had been prepared.

He also acknowledged the demand for better bus connectivity and MEMU trains for Mandya, and said meetings were underway. He highlighted that the maximum speed of trains between Bengaluru and Mysuru was increased from 110 kmph to 135 kmph.

Two more MEMU trains

He added that priority is being given to developing cities like Mysuru and Tumakuru as alternatives to Bengaluru, and that two more MEMU trains will soon operate between the cities. The minister stated that five railway overbridges and one railway underbridge had been sanctioned along the Bengaluru–Mysuru route. The ROB at the Channapatna yard (level crossing 47), constructed for Rs 20 crore, will be inaugurated shortly.

This apart, work on the ROB (LC 97) between Srirangapatna and Pandavapura is under implementation for Rs 41.14 crore. The RUB at Nayandahalli–Kengeri (LC 10) worth Rs 33.65 crore and ROBs at Settihalli–Nidagatta (LCs 53 and 56) are at the DPR approval stage. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) is being prepared for four-laning the Bengaluru–Mysuru line, he stated.

Kumaraswamy said requisitions have been received for restoring train stoppages discontinued during the Covid-19 pandemic. He added that coach augmentation is underway for various trains, and restoring stoppages will be a priority.

Root canal treatment now part of AB-ArK scheme

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state health department on Thursday approved root canal procedures as a part of the Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka (AB-ArK) scheme. This will cover root canal treatment for the anterior and posterior tooth.

Root canal treatment is a dental procedure aimed at cleaning, shaping, and filling the root canal system to restore and maintain the health of the tooth and surrounding tissues.

The government's order said that studies indicate that a significant proportion of patients choose for tooth extraction instead of root canal due to high treatment cost and lack of awareness and in an attempt to promote tooth preservation, improve oral health and reduce avoidable extractions the treatment has been now included under the scheme.

12 procedure codes

The government will cater to up to 50,000 cases or Rs five crore, whichever is less, the order read.

Currently, under the AB-ArK scheme, there are 12 procedure codes under dental, and oral and maxillofacial surgery specialty.

Vikas Souharda Co-operative Bank Ltd.
Head Office : Sardar Patel Main Road, Patel Nagar, Hospet - 583201 Vijayanagar Dist.

RECRUITMENT

The above bank has invited applications for various posts from eligible candidates. The interested candidates may submit the application in the prescribed format online on or before 24.04.2026.

Details of posts

1	Manager/ Sr. Officer	10 post
2	Auditor	4 post
3	Law Officer	2 post
4	Probationary Officer	20 post
5	Recovery Assistant / Junior Assistant	10 post

Educational qualification, experience, proficiency and age etc. required for the posts, are furnished on bank's **website vikas.bank.in** Eligible persons may submit the application with details online. For the post of Probationary Officer, a written examination will be conducted on April 26, 2026, Sunday at Hosapete. The qualified candidates in the written examination will appear for an oral interview on April 27, 2026, Monday at Bank's Head Office, Hosapete. For the remaining posts, there will be only an oral interview which will be informed separately.

Place: Hosapete
Date : 09.04.2026

Sd/-
Managing Director

ESI HOSPITAL, INDIRANAGAR
Office Of the Medical Superintendent,
Indiranagar, Bangalore-560008

Enquiry No. ESIH/INR/KITCHEN/24/2025-26 Date : 31.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender for Supply of Diet Items Including Bread and Eggs for ESI Hospital, Indiranagar for One Year (June 2026 to May 2027). **(1)** Last date & time for receipt of tender/Tender submission: **05.05.2026, at 04:00 pm. (2)** Date & time for opening of tender Technical Bid: **11.05.2026, at 9.00 am. (3)** Address of opening of Tender The Medical Superintendent, ESI Hospital, Indiranagar, Bengaluru-560008. **(4)** Date fixed for Sample Submission: **at 08.05.2026, at 11.00 am.** The tenderers should submit the tenders through E-procurement only website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** Helpdesk: 080-25501216/227. For further Information please contact office of the under signed.

Sd/-
Medical Superintendent,
ESI Hospital, Indiranagar, Bengaluru-08

DIPR/CP/120/SHIRDISAI/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION
Karnataka State Health & Family Welfare Society
1st Floor, Aarogya Soudha, Magadi Road, Bengaluru – 560023.
Ph : 080-23113588

No: NHM/SPMU/IMM/Recruitment-Notification/2026-27[E-1499338] Date:08/04/2026

Withdrawal of walk in interview notification

The advertisement for walk in interview on **13.04.2026** for various categories of posts under NHM, issued in Deccan herald and Vijaya Karnataka News papers dated **03.04.2026,** is here by stands withdrawn with immediate effect, due to technical reasons.

Sd/-
Mission Director
National Health Mission

DIPR/CP/133/Zen/2026-27

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka

Ref.No: VTU/BGM/RE/2026-27/IFT No.05/120 Date: 08-04-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) - (Through KPP Portal Only)

The e-Tender is invited in duplicate from eligible Tenderers, registered Contractor, by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 18, under standard tender document procedure K/W format for the Work of **Furnishing of 1st Floor Seminar Hall in the New Class Room Complex at UBDT, College of Engineering, Davangere. Amounting to Rs. 1,66,04,441/- (Excluding GST).** Other details log on to Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 07-04-2026.**

Sd/- Registrar
VTU, Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/70/Adverto/2026-27

Lancet Commission to study rising sea level announced

BENGALURU, DHNS: A new Lancet Commission was announced on Wednesday to study the impact of rising sea level on the life and livelihood of crores of people.

The Lancet Commission on Sea-Level Rise, Health and Justice, convened with support from the WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health (WHO ACE), is aimed at providing evidence-based, science-led policy recommendations to mitigate health risks, strengthen adaptation and resilience and ensure equitable and ethical responses to the rise in sea level. The commission will bring together 26 commissioners, including its co-chairs, from across disciplines and regions, combining scientific expertise with policy insight, community perspectives and diverse knowledge systems. The Commission will analyse how sea-level rise reshapes health and wellbeing and deepens injustice, proposing actionable responses for governments, communities, and global institutions, as announced in a Lancet commentary.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ರಾಯಚೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
E-mail:itstaff_ulb_raichura@yahoo.com Website:-www.raichurcity.gov.in
Phone No:08532-226768 Fax No:08532-226316

ಸಂ.ರಾಮಪ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಕಾ/ಅ/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:07–04–2026.

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ / ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2.0 ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ).

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ತೋರಿಸಿದ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2.0 ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು WWW.KPPP.Karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ WWW.raichurcity. mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಅನುದಾನದ ವಿವರ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ
1	ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ	Providing and Erection of Barricading Bamboo Thatti and Ballies For Water Kiosk at Various Places In Raichur City **Estimate Cost Rs.13,80,000/- (07 Days)**	DMA/2026-27/ OW/ WORK_ INDENT57224
2		Repair and Renovation of Public Toilets and Community Toilets Within The Limits of Raichur City Corporation (PHASE-1) **Estimate Cost Rs.2,40,00,000/- (15 Days)**	DMA/2025-26/ BD/ WORK_ INDENT55726/ CALL-2
3		Providing and Fixing Membrane for Water Proofing for Corporation (OLD DC) Office Building In Raichur City. **Estimate Cost Rs. 20,50,000/- (07 Days)**	DMA/2025-26/ OW/ WORK_ INDENT55744 /CALL-2
4		Providing and Fixing of Cistern and Fixing of Gate to the Safai Karmachari Gravayard at Ward No. 12 In Raichur City **Estimate Cost Rs. 1,80,000/-**	DMA/2025-26/ OW/WORK_ INDENT56756/ CALL-2

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ರಾಯಚೂರು.

DIP/RCR/13KSMCA/15/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಇಂಜನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಘಟಕ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಆ&ಕು.ಕ.ಇ.ಇಂ
ವಿಭಾಗ, ಫೋರ್ಟ್ ರೋಡ್, ಧಾರವಾಡ–580008
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ : 0836 – 2955800
(E-Mail : eehfwedvndwd1@gmail.com)
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾನಿಅ/ಆಕುಕಇಇಂ/ವಿಭಾಗ–ಧಾ/ಪಿ.ಎಮ್. ಅಭಿಮ್/17/26–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 08.04.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (Through KPP Portal only)

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆ&ಕು.ಕ.ಇ.ಇಂ., ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿವಾರು ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾವಾರು ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಈ ವಿಭಾಗದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯ 1} ಪಿ.ಎಮ್. ಅಭಿಮ್: ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ: 3 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ, 2} ಡಿ.ಪಿ.ಆರ್. ಹಾವೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ: 2 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ: 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿರುವಂತೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿವಾರು Double cover system, ಐಟಂವಾರು ದರದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ : **09.04.2026** ರಿಂದ **17.04.2026** ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕುಮೆಂಟಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ, ಹಾಗೂ ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ದಿ : **18.04.2026** ರಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

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ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಆ&ಕು.ಕ.ಇ. ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/40/2026–27

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING PROJECT DIVISION KALABURAGI

No : EE/RDPRE/PD/KLB/KKRDB /TS/TND/206-27/28 Date : 07/04/2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-procurement Single Cover System)

1.	Name of work & Amount put to tender	1) KRRDA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 326/ CALL-3 APT-Rs. 4629836.83
2.	Head of account	2025-26 year 5054
3.	Class of Contractor	Class-III & above
4.	Issue of Blank Tender Documents	07-04-2026 to 17-04-2026 upto 4.00 pm
5.	Tender Form Fee	As per KPPP Norms
6.	E.M.D. Fee	As Mentioned in KPPP Portal
7.	Receipt of completed tender documents	07-04-2026 to 17-04-2026 upto 4.00 pm
8.	Technical Bid Opening Date	20-04-2026 After 11.00 am
9.	Financial Bid opening Date	20-04-2026 After 11.00 am
10.	For more details contact	Office of the Executive Engineer, R.D.P.R.E. Project Division Rajapur Road Kalaburagi
11.	Website Address	www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Udaykumar Houde
Executive Engineer
R.D.P.R.E. Project Division
Kalaburagi

DECCAN HERALD
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Distrust stalls peace in Manipur

The illusion of a fragile peace in Manipur has been broken by the killing of two children in a bomb attack in Bishnupur district. Three others were killed after security forces opened fire to resist a mob of protesters. Violence in the northeastern state has evolved from sporadic, isolated incidents into organised armed action. With groups planning and executing targeted attacks and the perpetrators remaining untraceable after the incidents, the situation remains volatile. Chief Minister Y Khemchand Singh has warned those responsible for the bomb attack of certain punishment. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is probing the incident; no arrests have been made.

Protests held in different parts of the state point to underlying tension. The government has suspended internet in five valley districts and mobilised more forces to handle potential unrest. Since assuming office, it has maintained a tough posture on the violence and claimed to have mounted extensive anti-militancy operations. In the fresh round of violence in Bishnupur, there is a sign for the government to step up action. That attacks can be staged to trigger clashes shows that militancy is active in the state even with a new government in office. Weapons stolen from police stations and state armouries at the peak of the violence are still in circulation. Efforts to recover these arms have had mixed results, further complicating the process to achieve lasting peace.

Violence returns to the state, deepening ethnic fissures and testing the new administration

The incident in the Meitei-dominated Bishnupur and its violent repercussions reveal a deep distrust between the Meitei and Kuki communities that remains unresolved despite recent efforts to secure a political solution. Since May 2023, Manipur has witnessed extensive violence and large-scale displacement of people. Its fissures were left unaddressed in the initial stages of the unrest, making reconciliation markedly tougher over time. Unlike the previous government led by N Biren Singh, the current dispensation has tried to infuse credibility and fairness into the negotiation process. The Chief Minister has tried to engage with all sections of society as part of a focused outreach initiative. But thousands of families are still living in camps and the state remains divided into zones dominated by the two communities. The government has a tough situation in hand, where it will be required to play a larger role than that of a dialogue facilitator. Singh held an all-party meeting to assess the situation, where a plea was made to the public to refrain from violence. He has signalled intent, but the real test will be in pushing it to rebuild lost trust.

Action must follow teen pregnancy audit

Karnataka's decision to mandate a comprehensive audit of teenage pregnancies marks a necessary and overdue intervention in a persistent public health and social challenge. By directing both government and private hospitals to report every adolescent pregnancy and subject each case to scrutiny, the state has signalled its intent to move beyond aggregate statistics and examine the lived realities behind them. This is a welcome shift from passive documentation to active diagnosis. The scale of the problem justifies such urgency. Over 80,000 teenage pregnancies have been recorded in the state in the past three years alone. While most cases occur in the 18-19 age group, cases among girls as young as 14 underscore the depth of vulnerability, though the state's overall rate remains below the national average.

Understanding why teenage pregnancies occur is central to any meaningful intervention. Early marriage, despite being illegal, continues to be a primary driver, often reinforced by poverty, social norms, and insecurity. Illiteracy and school dropouts further compound the risk, as education remains the strongest protective factor. Equally significant is the lack of awareness about reproductive health and limited access to contraception. In many cases, stigma and silence around sexuality leave young girls uninformed and unprepared, while coercion and abuse remain underreported realities. The consequences for young women are severe and often irreversible. Adolescent pregnancies carry higher risks of complications, including anaemia, obstructed labour, and maternal mortality. Infants born to teenage mothers are more likely to have low birth weight and face higher neonatal risks. Socially, early pregnancy almost invariably leads to discontinuation of education, curtailing economic opportunities, and perpetuating cycles of poverty. The psychological toll – marked by stigma, isolation, and in some cases violence – deepens the crisis.

Karnataka's move goes beyond data compilation. Can the insights ensure sustained action?

Yet, an audit is only the first step. Identifying patterns and vulnerabilities must lead to sustained, preventive action. This requires a robust investment in adolescent education, particularly comprehensive sexuality education that is age-appropriate and culturally sensitive. Schools must become spaces where awareness is normalised, not suppressed. Equally important is strengthening access to adolescent-friendly health services, especially in rural areas, and ensuring that schemes like counselling centres reach those most at risk, including school dropouts and migrant populations. The audit provides an opportunity to confront uncomfortable truths. But unless it is followed by systemic reforms in education, healthcare access, and social awareness, it risks becoming another well-intentioned exercise in data collection. The real measure of success will lie not in the number of cases audited, but in the number of young lives safeguarded.

RESILIENCE CREDIT

A curriculum for the internal world

Burnout is sweeping across college campuses. Universities must embed resilience into academic systems

VIJAY KANURU

A recent visit to my university for a distinguished alumni felicitation during its platinum jubilee prompted an unexpected moment of reflection. Walking through familiar corridors decades later, I was struck not just by nostalgia but by a subtle shift in the psychology of students. We experienced competition, anxiety and academic pressure, but rarely the persistent emotional exhaustion students today describe as burnout. Stress existed, yet it seldom translated into the pervasive fatigue now visible across campuses. That contrast raises an important question: what has changed in the student environment?

The previous generation benefited from stronger community buffers – extended families and neighbourhood networks that acted as emotional shock absorbers. University life today differs in several important ways.

First, academic competition has intensified. Admission pathways, internships, and career opportunities have become more selective. Students now feel compelled to build extensive portfolios – academic performance, research, and extracurricular achievements – while managing demanding coursework.

Second, digital technology has reshaped how students perceive progress. Social media and professional platforms create constant visibility of achievements. While they offer opportunity, they also amplify comparison.

Third, daily routines have shifted. Earlier student life included more unstructured time, outdoor activity, and informal social interaction. Today, academic schedules combined with digital engagement compress time for rest, reflection, and connection. Individually, none of these fully explains burnout. Together, they create an environment where mental recovery becomes increasingly difficult.

Conversations with students reveal a deeper layer. While technology and lifestyles have evolved rapidly, the biological systems that regulate stress and recovery have not. Human cognition evolved in environments defined by cycles – daylight, movement, and social interaction. These rhythms supported emotional regulation and cognitive endurance. Our neurons and mitochondria remain wired for these patterns. The result is a biological mismatch – a collision between slow-evolving biology and a hyper-accelerated environment. Over time, this erodes the rhythms that support mental balance.

The consequences are increasingly visible. As per the National Crime Records Bureau's last report, nearly 13,900 students died by suicide in 2023, with academic pressure and psychological distress frequently cited. These represent the most severe outcomes of a broader wellbeing crisis.

Universities have begun responding. Wellness centres, counselling portals, and peer-support initiatives have expanded across campuses. Policy initiatives encouraged by the University Grants Commission (UGC) have emphasised mental-health systems. These are important steps. However, counselling often addresses stress after

it has accumulated.

The next step is structural: integrating resilience-building into the academic framework rather than treating it as optional support. One approach is a Resilience Credit within university curricula. If institutions evaluate intellectual competencies through credits, they can also create structured opportunities for students to build resilience, recovery skills, and sustainable work habits.

A structured resilience module can be built around a few practical, repeatable elements. Regular guided breathing or relaxation sessions help students recognise stress responses and develop techniques to calm the nervous system. These simple practices build awareness of how stress manifests physically and how it can be regulated.

Scheduled time away from devices reduces cognitive overload and restores attention capacity. Stepping away from screens allows for uninterrupted thinking and more meaningful, real-world interaction. Participation in sports, environmental initiatives, or community service introduces physical movement and shared purpose – both essential for emotional balance.

In March 2026, the UGC mandated mental-health support systems across campuses. To prevent this from becoming a "checkbox exercise," universities should consider introducing a formal Resilience Credit. This would shift mental hygiene from a remedial response to a foundational component of education. It institutionalises what modern academic life often suppresses: physical interaction, peer dialogue, and reflective time without guilt.

A resilience credit could be structured around recurring interventions:

Weekly: The cellular reset
Short guided breathing sessions help the nervous system shift from stress-driven alertness to a restorative state. The hack: 10 to 15 minutes of guided physiological regulation. These breathing practices shift the nervous system from sympathetic "fight-or-flight" activation towards parasympathetic recovery, allowing the body to reset.

Fortnightly: The digital circuit breaker (Dopamine fasting)
Scheduled time away from screens encourages peer interaction, hobbies, and collaborative learning. Universities could also revive student interest groups similar to those at institutions such as the University of Cambridge. This can reduce digital triggers while creating space for deeper human interaction that recalibrates attention and reward systems.

Monthly: The grounding protocol
A few hours of earth-touch activity, such as urban plantation drives or community service. Just as electrical systems require grounding to prevent overload, humans benefit from "biological earthing." Physical engagement with natural environments and community activity can reduce stress and restore a sense of collective purpose.

In many ways, we have created a world faster than the biological systems designed to inhabit it. If universities can credit students for mastering complex algorithms, they can also recognise the importance of mastering themselves. Integrating resilience into the curriculum is not just preventive; it builds the capacity to navigate an accelerated world without losing equilibrium.

The pace of modern professional life will only intensify. Graduates will face demanding schedules, rapid technological shifts, and complex social challenges. Education must therefore equip students not only with knowledge but also with the ability to manage pressure, recover from setbacks, and sustain long-term productivity.

Introducing resilience-oriented practices signals that mental wellbeing is integral to academic success, not separate from it. A university's role is not only to cultivate intellectual excellence but also to prepare individuals for a balanced and sustainable life.

(The writer is a Gates Cambridge Scholar, Helmholtz Research Fellow, and Lowry Prize Winner)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

The electrifying domestic war

My desire was finally fulfilled but not without a shocker

HARINI RAGHAVAN

With the outbreak of war in West Asia, the prospect of an LPG shortage created panic, at least temporarily, driving many households to buy induction stoves, electric cookers, instant pots and what have you. I didn't have a crisis at that instance, with one cylinder just half empty and the second still unused. Yet I nudged my husband to buy an induction stove "to be on the safe side".

Knowing that the condition at home was well under control, my husband didn't budge, despite my dramatic explanation of how in due course we would exhaust all the supplies and would be panicking when all the electric cooking appliances would be sold out. However, his optimistic thinking – that it was a temporary crisis which would be resolved soon – deterred him from any such purchases. His valuable suggestion to me was to minimise cooking, which I most eagerly welcomed. I took immediate action; the next day coffee was lukewarm, it was toasted bread for breakfast and a one-pot dish for lunch. He reheated the coffee in the microwave and was happy with the breakfast and lunch options, and dinner was done with leftovers.

As my resentment over not purchasing the electrical gadget continued, cooking was minimal. Salads and fruits became more prominent. I was regularly reporting to him how many of our friends were now lucky owners of the precious gadget. Meanwhile, the first gas cylinder ran out. Booking for the refill didn't even confirm if and when it would be delivered.

Whether it was my continuous ranting or the need for his gastronomic indulgence, my husband finally changed his mind. He made a bold decision to invest in the induction stove, which called for regular cooking and more.

All that was missed over the last few days was prepared, justifying the purchase. And we praised it for its fast and efficient cooking. At the beginning of the new month came a shocker: the electricity bill, with a record-high amount – way over the *Griha Jyothi* allowance.

Now we were in a dilemma whether to conserve the precious LPG or the costly electricity. I was running between the gas and electric stoves, trying to balance the usage and optimise benefit. One fine day, I suddenly heard a rattling noise at my gate, and to my great surprise and joy, my spare cylinder was delivered. The sound was music to my ears and the sight divine. I became emotional to see the red cylinder, the object of my adoration, at the door. I delighted the delivery boy with an additional tip and celebrated the delivery by preparing *kesari baath*, as if welcoming a newborn at home. I am back to my delectable cooking, hoping for no more crises.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ceasefire must open path to peace

The unexpected strength of Iran's counterattacks against the US and Israel has reshaped the dynamics of the conflict, highlighting the risks of further escalation. At the same time, growing domestic opposition within the US and disappointment over unmet war goals appear to have compelled President Donald Trump to move towards a ceasefire. Despite its fragile nature, the ceasefire has brought a sense of relief to the region and the global community, reducing immediate fears of a wider conflict. This two-week window should be used effectively for diplomacy and constructive engagement. If both sides act with restraint and intent, it could help de-escalate tensions and create a pathway towards ending the war.
N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

Scrap honorary degrees

I refer to 'No honour in vanity degrees' (Apr 9). The editorial is timely and serves as a necessary restraint on vice-chancellors eager to gain proximity to power. So-called honorary doctorates are often awarded to the undeserving, rendering the practice obnoxious and almost mocking those who undertake rigorous academic research for years. It would be better to amend the Karnataka State Universities Act to do away with this practice altogether.
T V Pandarinath Naidu, Kudige

Prioritise reform

Apropos 'Death penalty: No justice in retribution' (Apr 8), the sentencing of nine policemen to death for custodial killings in Sathankulam raises troubling questions about the philosophy of justice. True deterrence will come from institutional change, and ensuring consequence.
K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

I would like to thank the people of Assam for finally taking democracy and elections seriously, and for learning to use the most powerful instrument in their hands, their vote, for their own survival.

Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assam CM

If voting changed anything, they'd make it illegal.

Emma Goldman

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Federal ethic under strain

Centralised power sparks conflict, reducing states from partners to petitioners seeking redress in courts

P JOHN J KENNEDY

When Justice B V Nagarathna recently spoke about Centre-state relations in a lecture, she made an important point about India's federal structure: the Union and the states are "co-equal" partners. It was a necessary reminder of first principles. But the real question is not what federalism is meant to be. It is what it has become. The fact that judges keep issuing such reminders is itself revealing. It suggests that the gap between constitutional design and political practice is widening, and that something fundamental is not working.

On paper, India's federal structure is well balanced. Power is distributed, diversity is accommodated, and there are sufficient mechanisms for coordination. However, in practice, the relationship is less cooperative and more conditional; less dialogic and more adversarial. An obvious sign of this trend is how federal disputes are often resolved through litigation. What once belonged to the political realm – fiscal disagreements, administrative conflicts, and issues related to gubernatorial conduct – are all settled in courtrooms. A mature federation, as Justice Nagarathna noted, should not depend so heavily on judicial intervention. It shows that our political processes, which should sustain federal balance through negotiation, accommodation, and mutual restraint, are weakening. Courts are forced to step in because other mechanisms are failing.

To understand why this is happening, one must look beyond constitutional provisions at the changing nature of Indian democracy. The latest report by the V-Dem Institute offers a useful lens. According to its findings, India ranks 105 out of 179 countries on the liberal democracy index and continues to be classified as an "electoral autocracy" – a category marked by declining democratic indices even as elections remain vigorously contested. The term is worth pausing over. An electoral autocracy is not a system without elections. But other essential features, such as freedom of expression, institutional autonomy, and a fair political playing field, show signs of erosion. Seen this way, the strain on federalism is part of a broader pattern: the gradual centralisation of power.

On the contrary, the constitutional vision of federalism rests on a culture of restraint. Both the Union and the states must work in genuine partnership. Unfortunately, contemporary politics has failed to adhere to this important principle. The Union government believes that only through centralisation, control, and the marginalisation of opposition-ruled states can it exercise authority. For these marginalised states, resistance becomes a necessity and a strategy. In the resultant atmosphere of conflict, federal principles are invariably sidelined or ignored.

Take fiscal relations as an example. When GST was introduced, it was framed as co-operative federalism in action. But today, several states continue to raise concerns about shrinking fiscal space, delayed compensation, and asymmetric financial transfers. If the Constitution imagines states as equal partners, the lived reality has reduced them to petitioners.

Rhetoric vs reality
Institutions meant to act as neutral intermediaries are also being drawn into political contestation. The role of governors has become contentious. Central agencies, including the CBI, ED, and the ECI, are frequently perceived, rightly or wrongly, as instruments of political pressure. When autonomous institutions lose their neutrality, federal balance is disturbed not through formal amendments but through everyday governance. Federalism depends not just on rules, but on a willingness to respect boundaries even when one has the power to override them. Unfortunately, that restraint is weakening now.

Although the V-Dem report does not directly address federalism, its diagnosis of democratic backsliding, weakening institutional autonomy, and the concentration of power has direct implications for the federal structure. When power concentrates, federalism is often the first casualty. Centralisation may be politically rewarding as it strengthens the Union government's hand and shapes national narratives. But it weakens the states.

India still possesses one of the most detailed federal constitutions in the world, and its formal structures remain intact. But the lived experience tells a different story: one of growing tension, declining trust, and increasing centralisation. The question before us is not whether federalism will survive. It will certainly, at least in form. But what kind of federalism will India practise? Will it be a system of genuine partnership, grounded in mutual respect? Or will autonomy exist largely on paper? Justice Nagarathna's statement is a reminder that federalism, more than a constitutional arrangement, is a democratic ethic. For it to be realised, the Union must commit to balance, restraint, and dialogue. If not, federalism will exist more in rhetoric than in reality, and what we may be witnessing is not a breakdown of the Constitution, but a quiet transformation of it.

(The writer is an educator and political analyst based in Bengaluru)

Battle of definitions: What counts as 'industry' and who is left out

SOPHY K J

The definition of 'industry' under the Industrial Disputes Act (ID Act), 1947 (now the Industrial Relations Code, 2020) determines whether a hospital worker can challenge an unfair dismissal, whether a municipal employee has the right to organise, and whether university staff can raise a wage dispute before the tribunal. For over 70 years, courts have wrestled with this question. The ID Act's social justice framework conceptualises the relationship between employer and worker as a social one, not a private contract between equals. The State, therefore, regulates the structural inequality inherent in such relations. But the entire exercise depends on what counts as industry.

Section 2(j) of the ID Act defines 'industry' broadly to encompass most of the organised workplaces. This breadth invited litigation almost immediately. In *D N Banerji v. P R Mukherji* (1953), the Supreme Court was asked whether the Act extended to a municipality and its workers. It ruled that it did, rejecting profit motive and capital investment as necessary conditions. What counted was the systematic cooperation between employer and employees towards producing goods or delivering services. In that sense, a municipality running welfare services was functionally no different from a factory.

Hospital Mazdoor Sabha (1960) carried this logic further. Justice Gajendragadkar's 'triple test' required systematic organised activity, cooperation between employer and employee, and an orientation towards satisfying material human needs. The Court also drew a firm line around 'sovereign functions', confining its interpretation to defence, foreign affairs, legislation, and the administration of justice. These functions were termed 'regal' and fell outside the Act's reach; welfare functions did not. The reasoning had a certain democratic plainness. If a private citizen could run the same operation, the State had no business claiming governmental privilege for it; workers within it were entitled to the same protections as any other employee.

That clarity proved short-lived. Through the 1960s and 1970s, the sovereign function exception was stretched beyond recognition. In *Safdarjung Hospital v. Kuldeep Singh* (1970), a two-judge bench held that Safdarjung Hospital was not an industry simply because it was government-run. This conflated State operation with sovereign character, precisely the error *Hospital Mazdoor Sabha* had warned against. The logic was dangerous as the welfare State expanded into hospitals, schools, utilities, and housing boards, and more workers were stripped of legal protection.

The contradictions across benches eventually necessitated a seven-judge bench. In *Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board v. A. Rajappa* (1978), Justice Krishna Iyer delivered what remains the most consequential judgment in Indian labour law on this question. The triple test of *Hospital Mazdoor Sabha* was restored and consolidated; *Safdarjung* was expressly overruled. The sovereign function was confined to primary and inalienable State functions such as defence, legislation, and justice. Everything else required functional assessment based on facts using the triple test. Institutional identity alone could not substitute for an examination of operational reality.

All seven judges in *BWSSB* called for legislative intervention. Parliament responded with the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1982, which proposed excluding hospitals, educational institutions, charitable organisations, and government departments from the definition of 'industry'. The amendment was never notified. When courts asked why, in *Union of India v. Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan* (2002), the Executive admitted that exclusion could not take effect until alternative dispute mechanisms were created for affected workers. Strip workers of that classification without replacing it, and they are left with nothing. Four decades on, those alternatives remain unbuilt.

The Industrial Relations Code, 2020 — one of three labour codes passed amid considerable controversy — retains the structure of the triple test but restores the categorical exclusions that *BWSSB* had struck down, such as hospitals, educational institutions, government departments, and charitable organisations. Workers in these sectors, upon the Code's commencement, are outside the Act's protective framework. The government's own earlier justification for not notifying the 1982 amendment that exclusion without alternatives amounts to abandonment applies with equal force here. That concern has never been addressed.

The matter is now pending before a nine-judge bench of the SC, following a referral first made in *State of UP v. Jai Bir Singh* (2005). The referral itself has been criticised; nine-judge benches are conventionally reserved for fundamental constitutional questions, whereas the definition of 'industry' is one of statutory interpretation.

For decades, workers in hospitals, universities, and municipal bodies have relied on *BWSSB* to get their protection. What the present Bench can usefully do is sharpen the sovereign function exception, confining it strictly to constitutionally reserved State functions such as the armed forces, the judiciary, and core governance machinery. The 'dominant-nature test' should be restated with enough clarity to foreclose evasion by smaller benches. And the Court, as unanimously urged by all seven judges in 1978, should call upon the Parliament to amend the definition in the IR Code to eliminate exclusions while upholding *BWSSB* until alternative industrial dispute resolution mechanisms are put in place.

The *BWSSB* got something fundamentally right: legal structures cannot determine who deserves substantive rights. India's Constitution did not treat the Directive Principles as decorative text. They were framed with an inclusive intent and are not mere guidelines; they are constitutional guarantees, which do not depend on whether one's pay cheque comes from the State or the private sector. The word 'industry' is an important legislative threshold. What rides on its interpretation is the right of millions of working people in India to a legal voice and to dignity at work.

(The writer is an associate professor and director, Centre for Labour Law Research and Advocacy at the National Law University, Delhi)

A study said church attendance had soared among British young people, a trend reversal that excited religious conservatives around the world; turns out it wasn't true

LAUREN JACKSON

Churches like the St Nicholas in Pluckley were once the beating heart of every British village, but have declined in number. NYT

No, Britain is not having a Christian revival

It was a researcher's dream: a surprising finding that made international headlines.

Britain was in the middle of a "quiet revival" of Christianity, said a report published by a nonprofit last year. It cited what it called a "large, robust" study by a trusted polling company, which showed that one of the most secular countries on Earth was suddenly returning to church — and Generation Z was driving the shift.

The response was anything but quiet.

The media published the findings, again and again. "Christianity is coming back to life," a Bloomberg columnist wrote. "Young people are 'finding truth in the church,'" The Guardian reported. "The Christian revival is here," according to The Telegraph. Christians around the world reposted the conclusions millions of times online.

I was also intrigued by the report, so I began visiting British churches. In some, the congregations were small, and homilies echoed through near-empty chapels. But in a few London churches, particularly those that had appeared in viral videos, the pews were packed.

"People are finding the church via social media," said Marina Saif, a nutritionist, 34, who attends a Coptic church in London that was full of young people. She said her church's ancient liturgy and heady incense offered a welcome break from a week staring at a screen. I met American evangelicals who said they had travelled to London to support the surge, and priests who said a nationwide revival was underway.

The problem, though, is that it wasn't.

Last month, the nonprofit, The Bible Society, retracted its report and called the underlying data "faulty." The polling company that conducted the 2024 survey, YouGov, said in an apologetic statement that an internal review found their sample of more than 13,000 adults had contained "fraudulent" responses. Those were "enough to make a few points difference to the key result," YouGov acknowledged.

The retraction has vindicated many social scientists and statisticians who had fiercely contested the original findings. But despite the reversal, and multiple national studies showing British Christianity is still in overall decline, the idea of a "revival" has taken hold, fuelled by select examples of growth.

"It's a man bites dog story. It's completely unexpected, and it seems to be really intriguing," David Voas, a social scientist at University College London, said of the survey results. "But it's ill-founded."

The misinformation had political implications: Religious conservatives pointed to the revival report as evidence that their movements were ascendant. That matters in a moment when Britain's right-wing populist party, Reform UK, has been using the language of Christianity to call for "civilisational renewal." One Reform lawmaker has said Britain needs "a revival of faith" and a recovery of "Christian politics."

In doing so, these politicians have mirrored the Republican playbook in the United States, where President Donald Trump and his administration have also claimed, without sufficient data, that the country is experiencing a religious revival to bolster their movement.

What did the survey claim?

For years, researchers have forecast that church pews would eventually empty in Britain, and in the West more broadly. In the 2021 census, for the first time, fewer than half of British people said they were Christian. Churches, once the beating heart of British villages, are closing, with more than 3,500 shut over roughly the last decade. Many have become the sites of luxury homes, weekend craft fairs and yoga studios.

The "Quiet Revival" report, published in April 2025, claimed all of that was changing. It specifically focused on England and Wales, and said that monthly church attendance there rose by more than 50% between 2018 and 2024, to about 6 million attendees. Young people were surging to church, it said, with 21% of young men ages 18-24 attending at least monthly.

The results shocked researchers — including the ones who had commissioned the report. "We weren't expecting it," Rob Barward-Symmons, one of the lead authors, told me last year. Others, like Voas, rushed to fact-check it.

What were the problems?

Instead of using a random sample of the public, the standard that high-quality opinion polls adhere to, the study used a method called an "opt-in" survey, where people can elect to take the survey online.

That self-selection often introduces incentives that skew study results. Some people rush through the survey to finish it as fast as possible. Others may select answers at random. Additionally, there is evidence that opt-in surveys are easy for chatbots to take.

The company that ran the British religion survey, YouGov, stood by its report until last month, when it published a retraction. It said many of the responses were unreliable because "anti-fraud measures" weren't correctly administered, and referred me to its public statement when I asked for more details. "For journalists, it was exciting to write about. For a lot of Christian believers, it was something that they wanted to be true," said Conrad Hackett, a demographer at Pew Research.

So what is really happening?

Christianity appears to be in long-term decline in Britain, according to multiple national surveys. In one, the share of British adults who go to church at least once a month was 12% in 2018 and is now 9%. In another, 54% of adults in Britain identified as Christian in early 2018, and last year, that number was down to 44%. Fewer new parents choose to baptise their children.

Still, there are signs of growth in some churches. The Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales has reported an uptick in adult baptisms. Immigrants are helping drive growth in some evangelical and charismatic Christian congregations. And about 12% of Anglican churches in Britain have reported congregations that were larger than before the pandemic. But those are exceptions.

"Revival is something you wouldn't need a spreadsheet to measure. It'd be pretty obvious it was happening," said Justin Brierley, the author of *The Surprising Rebirth of Belief in God*.

There is a growing spiritual hunger in Britain, he said, though it does not always find Christian expression. Bible sales have increased in the country in recent years. Celebrities have helped make tarot reading and horoscopes into popular trends. And young people ages 18-34 are more likely to hold some spiritual beliefs, including a belief in animal spirits, than people 50 and older, Pew Research found.

Lamorna Ash, 31, spoke to young people across Britain about religion for a recent book. She said some were becoming interested in spirituality because it had been so visible on social media and in politics.

"Some see faith as a kind of countercultural phenomenon," she said. "A way to differentiate yourself from others." She said young people were drawn to religion because they were hungry for richer communities and answers to life's big questions.

"These are questions that everyone has, fundamentally — questions of meaning, purpose," Luc de Leyritz, 29, said last year while attending a service at Holy Trinity Brompton in Onslow Square, one of London's most popular churches. It's packed each week with young people, and he said he often arrives 20 minutes early to get a seat. "There's a pendulum swing. The newer generation, Gen Z, is more interested in spirituality, more interested in religion."

A growing curiosity, though, is not the same as a revival.

The New York Times

The hidden costs of judicial stress

EDMOND FERNANDES

The complex nature of obligations that judges are called upon to discharge, mounting work pressure due to extended backlogs, and increasing societal expectations have made judicial life increasingly stressful, leading to severe health and wellbeing consequences. The intersection of judicial wellbeing, judicial competence, probity, institutional independence, and public trust is delicately balanced. These are tightropes upon which an impartial judiciary must walk, fully aware that it is a human-run system capable of failing at multiple levels.

If a judge is expected to deliver justice with empathy, compassion, mercy, speed, and without bias, protecting judicial mental health and ensuring the preventive health and wellbeing of judges in every court becomes paramount.

In a country like India, where 5.5 crore cases are pending in various courts and litigants lose critical years due to delayed rulings, non-listing of cases, and adjournments, the judge must use judicial wisdom, diplomacy, tact, and interpretation of the law to deliver justice that spares life and years.

Sound, unbiased, speedy, and effective judgments can only come out of those courtrooms where the mental health of the judges is preserved, where their preventive health and wellbeing are nourished, and where their mindset holds compassion, mercy, and empathy, and not ego, sadistic pleasure, or natural indifference to the subject at hand.

Judicial stress is a globally recognised challenge faced by judges. Evolving research suggests that judges face increased workload, unnecessary paperwork, social isolation, familial pressure, societal expectations, and threats from engaging with the powerful and the influential, placing their working conditions under constant strain.

Additionally, long working hours in the courtrooms and chambers have health consequences such as gastrointestinal issues and frequent headaches. Long periods of sitting can lead to disc bulge and spinal changes triggering back pain; inadequate consumption of water can also have an impact on the kidneys.

Furthermore, the judges grapple with the challenges of interpersonal relations, work-related burnouts, personal and familial problems, annual confidential reports, Bar antagonism, and the tough scrutiny of media watchdogs. These engagements directly influence the health of the judges – from the trial courts to the Supreme Court – and indirectly influence the judgments they issue.

The Global Judicial Integrity Network under the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) conducted a survey, which highlighted the wellbeing experiences of judges from across the world. About 758 judges from 102 countries participated in this survey. The findings showed that 76% of the judges have no time to maintain their physical and mental wellbeing, and over 89% knew of judicial colleagues experiencing stress or anxiety.

Distressed judges may exhibit signs of reduced temper and perception bias. The inappropriate observations they make during the hearings often indicate the shallow, perfunctory nature of their eventual judgments.

Addressing the challenges of failing judicial mental health calls for a multi-pronged, professional approach with humility at its core. The Nauru Declaration on judicial wellbeing provided guiding principles that can mark a beginning. Wellbeing training for judges is awfully lacking in many courts in the country; stepping this up will be a path in the right direction. Judges must be encouraged to participate in workshops on emotional regulation, preventive health, resilience building, stress management, and mindfulness. Ergonomics must be introduced into India's courtrooms. Remote hearings can also be adopted periodically to ensure flexibility.

In a recent survey, it was found that a drop in public trust and confidence in the courts has negatively affected the mental health of many judges. Judicial integrity is closely linked to the mental and physical health of the judges. When the health of a judge is affected, the consequences are wide-ranging. When the health of a judge is protected and optimal, efficiency increases, empathy is assured, wisdom is channelled well, and the courtroom turns from a place of despair to a space of energy and balance.

The Chief Justices and judicial academies in the country must take note of these structural challenges and help develop a comprehensive framework for judicial wellbeing. Efforts on these lines can create a conducive environment that inspires hope and restores public confidence. The time to fast-track preventive health for the judiciary is now, before we hit the iceberg.

(The writer is honorary director of the Edward & Cynthia Institute of Public Health, Mangaluru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: APRIL 1976

Arable land for 6 lakh families

Bangalore, April 9
About 600,000 families will become owners of cultivable land once the Land Reforms Act is implemented in Karnataka, according to Mr. K. Balasubramaniam, adviser to the State Government on land reforms and revenue. Of them, about a lakh will be allotted land under the scheme of distribution of surplus land. The remaining landless tenants will be granted occupancy rights. He said that with this, there would be only medium and small peasant proprietors in the State.

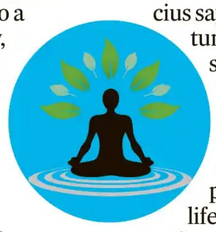
25 YEARS AGO: APRIL 2001

NDA shifts campaign focus

New Delhi, April 9
The ruling NDA, which had earlier cancelled its planned countrywide public meetings to counter Congress campaign against the Vajpayee Government demanding its resignation following the *Tehelka.com* expose on corruption in defence deals, today decided to go ahead with its 'election-oriented' rallies at Bhopal, Raipur, Ranchi and Lucknow. The NDA has shifted the focus of its meetings from countering the Congress on *Tehelka* to farmers' cause, economic gains and its peace efforts in Kashmir.

OASIS | SUDHA DEVI NAYAK

Empathy is a precious emotion



In a polarised and fractious world where human rights are trampled and liberties are withheld with impunity, we either turn a blind eye or our disapproval, at best, is muted. We are caught up in our limited selves with our ambitions and concerns. Our moral indifference to the existence of fellow beings, our denial of their humanity, is a betrayal of our own. There is a beautiful emotion, *Sahridayata*, or a shared feeling, an empathy that puts us in the place of the suffering with their vulnerabilities. Empathy is the voice that says, 'There but for the grace of God go I.'

Sadri Shrazi, the Persian poet's luminous verses that now stand at the entrance of the UN headquarters in New York, woven into a large handmade carpet, say, "When time affects us with pain/ In one part of that body/ All the other parts feel it too/ If you fail to feel the pain of others, you do not deserve the name of man." According to the *Mahabharata*, empathy is the foundation of *Dharma*, and *Atmaupamyena* is the attitude of treating the joys and sorrows of others as our own, and he who does that is the *paramayogi*.

The Chinese philosopher Confucius says, "The wheel of fortune turns incessantly, and who can say within himself, 'I shall today be uppermost?'" To the extent possible, it is incumbent on us in the name of humanity to wipe a tear or put a smile back and make a life more meaningful.

Our capacity to look away when confronted with enormous injustice and suffering, society's acceptance of inequality is inexcusable. Empathy is a combination of goodness and compassion, the commitment to listen to other voices, the capacity to have trust in the basic goodness of every person and understanding of their failings. It begins with people around us, the less privileged, with leaders who have to lead with empathy and build trust. Yehuda Bauer, a Holocaust historian, says, "Thou shalt not be a victim. Thou shalt not be a perpetrator; thou shalt not be a bystander." The bystander is held accountable alongside the perpetrator for crimes against humanity; he is the collective conscience of the world for the weak and powerless.

Even men aren't allowed in some temples, Centre tells Supreme Court

Court warns against 'dividing society' during hearing on Sabarimala women's entry

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Thursday submitted before the Supreme Court that its 2018 judgment in the Sabarimala case had proceeded on the assumption that men are superior and women are placed on a lower pedestal.

A nine-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, however, cautioned against practices that restrict access to places of worship on denominational grounds, orally observing that they would amount to "dividing society".

Continuing its submission on the restriction of entry for women of menstruating age into Kerala's famous temple, the Centre, through Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, said that there are instances of temples where even men are not allowed, as certain faiths and beliefs are attached.

"There are temples where male priests are under a religious mandate to wash the feet of female devotees. There are temples like the Pushkar temple, the only Brahma temple in the country, where married men are not allowed," he said.

Narrating the manner in which the practice is observed, Mehta said there is also a temple in Kerala where men enter dressed as women. "They go to beauty parlours, and their female family members help them dress in sarees and other attire. Only males go there. So it is not a question of male-centric or female-centric religious beliefs. In the present case, it happens to be woman-centric," he contended.

During the hearing, the bench orally observed that Hinduism's inclusive spirit must not be undermined by exclusionary traditions, saying that "it will affect Hinduism negatively, and everybody must have access to every temple and mutt".

The bench was hearing petitions related to discrimination against women at religious places, including the Sabarimala temple, and on the ambit and scope of religious freedom practised by multiple faiths.

The bench also comprised Justices BV Nagarathna, MM Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, Augustine George Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi.

Senior advocate CS Vaidyanathan, appearing for the Nair Service Society, Ayyappa Seva Samajam, Kerala Kshetra Samrakshana Samiti and others, submitted that even the court cannot decide whether a practice is an essential part of religion.

Secular authority

"The secular authority of the state is prohibited from examining whether something is an essential part of religion. If this is the belief of the community, the judge is bound to accept that belief. It is not for him to sit in judgment on it. He has no right to interfere with the conscience of a donor who makes a gift, etc," Vaidyanathan said, citing a previous court judgment.

On this, Justice Nagarathna said, "There is one apprehension; keep aside the controversy in Sabarimala. If you speak of the right of entry in the context of Venkataramana Devaru, where they said anybody other than Gowda Saraswath Brahmins is excluded, it will affect Hinduism negatively. Everybody must have access to every temple and mutt."

The hearing in the matter will continue on April 15.

JUSTICE B V NAGARATHNA
Supreme Court

"If you say the right of entry, in the context of (the) Venkataramana Devaru (judgment of the apex court), where they said anybody other than Gowda Saraswat Brahmins is excluded, it will negatively affect Hinduism. Everybody must have access to every temple and mutt. Keep aside the controversy in the Sabarimala judgment (2018). But if you say it is a practice and it is a matter of religion that I will exclude others and only my section, my denomination, will attend the temple and nobody else, that is not good for Hinduism. Let the religion not be adversely affected. It will be counter-productive for the denomination.

FAITH & GENDER

- Centre says 2018 Sabarimala verdict assumed male superiority
- SC stresses Hinduism's inclusive spirit must not be undermined
- Says denominational exclusion harms Hinduism
- Hearing on women's entry at temples to continue on April 15

No cash at highway toll plazas from today

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has said cash payments at toll plazas will be discontinued for travellers on national highways from April 10.

In cases where a vehicle enters a fee plaza without a valid FASTag, users can still pay via Unified Payment Interface (UPI), but at a higher charge of 1.25 times the applicable toll fee, the ministry official said here on Thursday.

The move aims to reduce long queues at toll gates.

Cash payments will no longer be accepted at toll booths from April 10, and FASTag will remain the primary mode of toll collection, while UPI will serve as the fallback payment option for vehicles that arrive without a valid FASTag, said the official.

"If the user of a vehicle enters a fee plaza without a FASTag or a valid functional FASTag, and opts to pay a fee through the Unified Payment Interface (UPI), he shall pay 1.25 times the user fee," the ministry said.

Nitish to take oath as RS member today

NEW DELHI, PTI: Bihar's long-time chief minister Nitish Kumar will take oath as a member of the Rajya Sabha on Friday, paving the way for the formation of a new government in Bihar.

Nitish Kumar

Kumar arrived in the national capital on Thursday and was welcomed at the airport by party leaders, including JD-U's national working president Sanjay Kumar Jha.

He will be administered the oath as a member of the upper house in the chamber of Rajya Sabha Chairman CP Radhakrishnan.

With Kumar assuming his Rajya Sabha role, marking the end of his rule in Bihar, the NDA is likely to elect a new chief minister of Bihar on April 14.

Bihar minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary said Nitish Kumar will take the oath after being elected to the Rajya Sabha and will soon relinquish the post of chief minister.

Govt notifies CAPF Act after Prez assent

NEW DELHI, PTI: The government on Thursday notified the Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026, after President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the "umbrella law" that will regulate recruitment, deputation, promotion and other conditions of service for the officers of the CAPFs.

All CAPFs — the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the Central Industrial Security Force, the Border Security Force, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) — are governed by their respective Acts.

PM appeals to women for passage of quota bill

Says legislation cannot be delayed anymore

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday appealed to women across the country to urge political parties and their representatives to help pass the amendment to the women's reservation legislation, the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, which aims to hasten the implementation of 33% reservation for women in state Assemblies and Parliament before the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

Narendra Modi

He also wrote a blog post asking women to help pass the Bill, saying that this legislation could not be delayed anymore.

On Wednesday, the Cabinet passed the draft legislation that is to be introduced in a special session of Parliament, set to convene from April 16.

The proposed delimitation exercise would expand the Lok Sabha from its current 543 seats to 816, with roughly one-third of them (273 seats) earmarked for women.

The reservation will apply vertically, extending to women within the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as well.

"From my experience of over two and a half decades as the head of state, I can say that to make Viksit Bharat a reality, we must ensure that women have 33% representation in our politics. A few years ago, we passed the Nari Shakti Bill and found support from all parties. They all feel that women should have their rightful place by the 2029 Lok Sabha elections," Modi said in a video.

He added that his government had started talks with all political parties and received positive feedback.

Modi said that despite attempts, the representation of women in politics and legislative bodies had not always reflected their role in society.

"This is particularly unfortunate because when women participate in administration and decision-making, they bring with them experiences and insights that enrich public discourse and improve the quality of governance... It is imperative that the 2029 Lok Sabha elections and the Assembly elections to the various states in the coming times are conducted with women's reservation in place," he argued.

Modi also said: "Every delay in advancing women's representation is, in effect, a delay in strengthening the quality and inclusiveness of our democracy."

Domestic drug prices stable despite global volatility: Centre

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre on Friday said that despite global volatility caused by West Asia conflict and disruptions in supply of solvents and active pharmaceutical ingredients, domestic drug prices have remained largely stable with no significant increase.

The measures taken by the government have helped maintain stability in the prices of medicines in the domestic market, Satyaprakash T L, joint secretary in the Department of Pharmaceuticals, told media persons here.

The government has proactively stepped up supplies of critical petrochemical feedstock to the pharmaceutical industry to ensure uninterrupted production of essential medicines amid strained global supply chains due to the ongoing conflict, he said.

Availability of intermediates used in medicines, such as Metformin and Aspirin, is being closely monitored, he said.

Minister heads to Qatar amid energy supply disruptions

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amidst escalating tensions in West Asia and its impact on global fuel supplies, Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has undertaken an official visit to Qatar, India's largest supplier of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and LPG.

The visit on April 9-10 follows a tentative US-Iran ceasefire that has rekindled hopes of resumption of energy supplies from the region.

"Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri Hardeep S Puri, will be on an official visit to the State of Qatar on 9-10 April, 2026," his ministry said in a post on X.

After the US and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28, Tehran launched a sweeping retaliation targeting Gulf countries hosting US troops. Qatar's giant LNG export facility at Ras Laffan Industrial City was hit, forcing the shutdown of production and a declaration of force majeure on gas exports.

Following the disruption of supply from Qatar, Indian companies have since turned to alternative LNG suppliers in the US and Australia.

Green Asha, an India-flagged LPG vessel that has crossed the Strait of Hormuz, has moored at JNPA's liquid berth operated by BPCL-IOCL, in Maharashtra. PTI

Largest supplier

Qatar is India's single-largest supplier of both LNG and LPG, providing 45% and 20%, respectively.

Discussions during Puri's visit are expected to focus on restoring shipments, reviewing existing agreements, and exploring avenues to strengthen bilateral energy cooperation.

Puri may ask Qatar to prioritise India in supply of LNG once trade resumes.

While the social media post did not give details of his agenda in Qatar, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said one has to wait for his return to know what exactly was discussed.

Fire breaks out at Mumbai airport; ops unaffected

MUMBAI, DHNS: A fire broke out at Terminal 1 of the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai on Thursday evening, and it was brought under control swiftly, officials said.

The airport operations remained unaffected, and there were no casualties, they said. "A minor fire was reported at Terminal 1 due to a short circuit at 18:10 hrs. The fire was immediately brought under control by the emergency response teams within minutes. Airport operations remain unaffected," a CSMIA spokesperson said.

Integrated Theatre Commands proposal to go to defence minister soon

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The armed forces have concluded their discussions on the formation of Integrated Theatre Commands, and a formal proposal may be submitted to the Defence Minister within a week, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan said on Thursday.

Speaking at a fireside chat during Ran Samwad — an annual military conference — in Bengaluru, Gen Chauhan said discussions under Exercise Tiranga (deliberations on establishing these commands between the CDS and the three service chiefs over three years) have been completed, and the proposal is likely to be submitted soon.

Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan at Ran Samwad 2026 in Bengaluru on Thursday. Chief of Army Staff Gen Upendra Dwivedi (2nd right) and Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff (left), are also seen. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

He said that though some differences remained, the final plan would now be presented to the Defence Minister and then to the Cabinet Committee on Security before operationalising the long-awaited Integrated Theatre Commands.

Earlier in the day, Air Marshal Asutosh Dixit, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, said, "Our move towards joint structures and theatre commands — with planning now reported to be more than 90% complete." He did not disclose further details.

Gen Chauhan and his predecessor Gen Bipin Rawat were tasked by the government with creating Integrated Theatre Commands while abolishing 17 individual commands shared among the Army (7), Air Force (7) and Navy (3). The aim is to improve operational efficiency and resource management by forming three Integrated Theatre Commands — for the Western border (to tackle threats from Pakistan), for the Northern border (China), and for the Maritime domain (sea-based threats).

To realise what is considered the biggest reform in India's higher defence, Gen Chauhan carried out a series of consultations to iron out differences among the services.

In the initial structure put forward by Gen Rawat, the Indian Air Force was not given command of any of the theatres. It was proposed that the Army head two land-focused commands, while the Navy was the obvious choice for the maritime one. This was not acceptable to the IAF.

Things, however, changed rapidly after Operation Sindoor, in which the IAF played a critical role. Air Marshal Dixit said air power occupies a distinctive position in multi-domain operations because of speed, flexibility, reach and precision.

CBI registers FIR in Rs 550-cr IDFC bank embezzlement case

NEW DELHI, PTI: The CBI has registered an FIR in the alleged embezzlement of Rs 550 crore from the Haryana government's accounts maintained with IDFC First Bank in Chandigarh after taking over the investigation in the matter, official sources said Thursday.

The Haryana government had transferred the probe to the central probe agency. The referral was sent to the agency on Wednesday. The CBI registered the FIR taking over the case earlier probed by the Haryana State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau.

"The case pertains to fraudulent banking operations and fictitious transactions allegedly undertaken in a systematic manner to siphon off government funds into the accounts of shell entities... resulting in a substantial loss to the public exchequer," the vigilance department of Haryana said while referring the case to the agency.

According to the police and ED allegations, Haryana government funds were supposed to be deposited by various departments of the state in the bank in FDs but were allegedly diverted by the accused for their personal purpose. Preliminary probe shows "huge" funds have been transferred to various shell (dummy) companies and minor jewellery entities and finally siphoned off under the guise of gold purchase and investment into real estate sector, sources said.

2 IAS officers suspended

The Haryana government has suspended two officers of the Indian Administrative Service with immediate effect. In two separate orders, the government placed Ram Kumar Singh and Pardeep Kumar under suspension with immediate effect. While no reason was given for their suspension, sources said the action was linked to the IDFC First Bank fraud case probe.

URBANISATION HAZARDS

Half of J&K's lakes lost since 1967, audit flags deep ecological crisis

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR , DHNS

Jammu and Kashmir has lost nearly half of its lakes and waterbodies over the past six decades, with 315 out of 697 recorded in 1967 having completely vanished, according to a recent audit that flags an alarming ecological decline in the fragile Himalayan region.

The findings, based on a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, reveal that another 203 waterbodies have significantly shrunk, while 63 have lost more than half of their original area and now face the threat of extinction.

Nearly three-fourths — 518 of the 697 lakes — have either disappeared or degraded, pointing to systemic stress on J&K's hydrological systems.

Sharp decline in water spread

The report quantifies the loss in stark terms: over 2,800 hectares of lake area has been lost since 1967. This includes more than 1,500 hectares linked to vanished waterbodies and over 1,300 hectares lost due to shrinking lakes.

The original inventory recorded 367 lakes in the Jammu region and 330 in Kashmir. Of the 315 that have disappeared, a majority were located in Jammu, highlighting uneven regional vulnerability.

Encroachment and governance gaps

The audit identifies unplanned urbanisation, encroachment and land-use change as the primary drivers behind the loss.

"A significant number of waterbodies has either disappeared or reduced considerably in size due to encroachment, land-use changes and inadequate conservation measures," the CAG report observed.

In urban centres like Srinagar, wetlands have steadily been reclaimed for housing colonies, roads and commercial infrastructure, often with weak enforcement of environmental regulations.

Fragmented governance has compounded the crisis, with multiple departments — including revenue, agriculture, forest, tourism and urban development — exercising overlapping control over waterbodies, leading to gaps in accountability.

Even iconic lakes such as Dal Lake and Wular Lake continue to face severe pressure from pollution and encroachments.

Climate risks and expert warning

Experts warn that the shrinking of wetlands has weakened the region's natural defence against floods.

Dr Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, a noted earth scientist, has cautioned in published interviews that: "Wetlands are the most threatened ecosystems in Valley, primarily due to encroachments & unplanned urbanisation."

Andhra eyes 'age token' route to restrict social media access for kids

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The Andhra Pradesh government is evaluating the use of "age tokens" to restrict children's access to social media.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had announced in the Assembly last month that the government was considering steps to restrict social media access for children under 13, likely within the next 90 days.

As part of enforcement architecture, the government was evaluating the use of secure age-verification mechanisms, including "age tokens" integrated with DigiLocker to authenticate user age without compromising privacy.

Age tokens in social media are privacy-preserving digital signals — often utilising cryptographic tokens, blockchain, or Zero-Knowledge Proofs, that verify whether a user meets legal age requirements without sharing personal data.

AP IT & Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh on Thursday

directed officials to prepare a comprehensive regulatory framework to restrict access to social media for children below 13 years and design an age-appropriate digital environment.

Chairing a Group of Ministers meeting with senior officials and representatives from leading social media platforms, he called for the drafting of legislation that balanced digital access with child safety, creativity, and mental well-being.

Lokesh emphasised the need for a graded, age-based content access system, particularly for users aged 13-16, ensuring that children were not exposed to harmful or inappropriate content.

The proposed framework would aim to align Andhra Pradesh with emerging global standards in digital child protection.

Officials have been tasked with studying best practices from countries such as Singapore, Australia, and Denmark to build a robust legal and technological framework tailored to India's needs.

Lokesh also underscored that strict action would be taken against individuals posting abusive or hateful content, particularly targeting women.

Recognising that regulation alone is insufficient, the government is expected to roll out large-scale awareness initiatives across the state, like digital safety education during "No Bag Day" in schools, awareness sessions for parents and students during Mega PTMs held twice annually, and outreach to women through Self-Help Groups on online safety and cyber risks.

Representatives from major social media platforms briefed the GoM on existing safeguards for restricting sensitive content.

After May 4, changes in your lives will be ushered in along with changes in the names of these places
Political Theatre
The BJP is paying people Rs 500 each to take part in its rallies. The end of the BJP is inevitable from Aug 2026

Poll vault

Doctor connect

"You delivered my sister," a young graduate told Dr R S Kiruthika Devi, a popular gynaecologist and obstetrician, as she canvassed for votes as the DMK candidate from Tambaram. An emotional Kiruthika Devi hugged him, thanking him for the moment. The DMK nominee is receiving a rousing reception across the constituency, with many recognising her and recalling how she treated them or their family members. The gynaecologist says that being a 24/7 doctor has prepared her well for public life. "I am always at your service," she tells voters.

ETB SIVAPRIYAN, CHENNAI

Tracksuit tiff

Oratory matters in politics; so does the outfit. Dipanjan Chakrabarty, the BJP's candidate in Uttarpara, West Bengal, likes to wear his patriotism and his past on his sleeve, quite literally. An ex-National Security Guard (NSG) operative, he often speaks of the elite counterterrorism force's "operations." On the campaign trail, he has also been spotted in a black tracksuit bearing a prominent NSG insignia. This has irked the TMC, which has fielded Sirshanya, a lawyer and the son of the party MP Kalyan Banerjee, in Uttarpara. The party has objected to the BJP candidate's use of NSG symbols during poll campaigning. The retired "black cat," however, remains unfazed, arguing that what he wears is not a uniform but a tracksuit, something anyone is free to don.

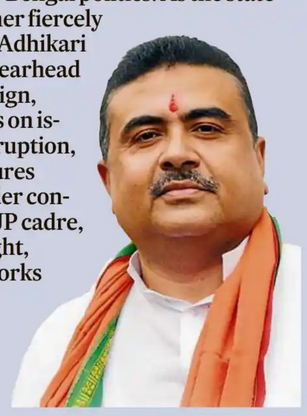
ANIRBAN BHAUMIK, KOLKATA

Meet the leader

Suvendu Adhikari
BJP
Bhabanipur

Leader of the Opposition in the assembly, Suvendu Adhikari remains one of the BJP's most prominent leaders in the state and is expected to play a central role in the upcoming elections. A former TMC leader who joined the BJP ahead of the 2021 polls, Adhikari gained national attention after defeating Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Nandigram, one of the most closely watched contests of that election. Hailing from the politically influential Adhikari family of Purba Medinipur, he commands a formidable organisational network across the coastal districts and the 'Jungle Mahal' belt.

Adhikari, known for his assertive campaign style, has been at the forefront of the BJP's efforts to expand its footprint in south Bengal. Within the BJP, he is widely regarded as one of the trusted lieutenants of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the party's principal strategist, when it comes to Bengal politics. As the state heads into another fiercely fought election, Adhikari is expected to spearhead the BJP's campaign, training his guns on issues such as corruption, governance failures and law-and-order concerns. For the BJP cadre, his political weight, grassroots networks and combative rhetoric make him the party's principal field commander.



Trivia

In 1996, Assembly elections in the Modakurichi constituency of Erode district had to be postponed after a staggering 1,033 candidates filed nominations. The Federation of Farmers' Associations fielded over 1,000 candidates to draw the government's attention to a range of issues, taking the final tally to 1,033 contestants, including 28 women. Faced with this unprecedented number, the EC deferred the polls, as it had to print a 50-page booklet listing all the candidates. On June 1, polling day, voters had to leaf through the booklet to find their preferred choice. DMK's Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan eventually won the contest by a margin of 39,450 votes.

Eviction victims miss polls in Assam

Names missing from rolls, many return disappointed from booths

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Ibrahim Ali kept his fingers crossed until the last minute about casting his vote in Assam on Thursday. The 45-year-old trader, a Bengali-speaking Muslim from Kachutoli village, about 50 km from Guwahati, however, returned disappointed after officials at the Sonapur Pathar polling station confirmed that his name was missing from the electoral rolls.

ASSAM
Assembly Poll

Ali is not alone. More than 2,000 Bengali-speaking Muslim voters in Kachutoli — a village where the BJP-led Assam government carried out an eviction drive in 2024 — were unable to cast their votes after their names were removed from the rolls. Nearly 300 of them gathered outside two polling stations, one at Sonapur Pathar and another at Kachutoli Part-1, hoping for last-minute restoration of their names.

"We kept our hope alive till the last moment for restoration of our names, as we had submitted appeals in the district commissioner's office," Ali told *DH* over the phone, soon after polling for the 126-member Assembly ended.

"This is the first time I could not vote. How can a democratically elected government snatch away the right of its citizens to vote? We are all Indian citizens and have documents to prove it," Ali said.

More than 2.43 lakh names were removed from the revised electoral rolls released on February 10, following a special revision in Assam by the Election Commission.

Many of those excluded were victims of eviction drives.

Thousands of Bengali-speaking Muslims — whom the BJP labels 'miyas' or 'infiltrators' from neighbouring Bangladesh — have been evicted from 1.5 lakh bighas of land, including forests, government land, and tribal belts and blocks, since 2021, when Himanta Biswa Sarma became chief minister. Similar eviction drives were carried out in Goalpara, Dhubri, Uriamghat in Golaghat, and other areas.

Most of the displaced families now live in makeshift huts along the roads.

Elderly voters show their ink-marked fingers in Idukki, Kerala. PTI

People travel on a boat across the Brahmaputra River to cast their ballots to vote at a polling booth during the Assam Legislative Assembly election in the Darrang district. AFP

Actor Mammootty arrives to vote in Ernakulam. PTI

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor after casting vote in T'puram. PTI

A 104-yr-old voter in Idukki district. PTI

LoP in Puducherry Assembly R Siva and his family members. PTI

A Bodo tribal community woman in Tamulpur. PTI

Assam records 85.64% voting; parties upbeat

Assam recorded a turnout of 85.64%, with the figure expected to rise further as the final percentage was still being compiled, reports DHNS.

The Election Commission said Assam had surpassed its previous record turnout of 84.67% registered in the 2016 Assembly elections.

Poll percentages in Assam have shown an upward trend since the militancy problem began to decline about a decade ago.

The high turnout left parties upbeat about the possible outcomes. The ruling BJP described it as "a resounding testament to the people's unyielding faith in democratic ideals and their unwavering commitment to shaping the destiny of Assam".

The Opposition Congress said people came out to vote in large numbers "for a change of time".

Kerala voter turnout rises; BJP predicts hung House

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Reflecting the intense battle in the Kerala Assembly polls, the voter turnout went up to 78%, compared to 76% in 2021.

Since scores of voters were waiting in queues till late in the evening, the total turnout may cross 80%, even as the Election Commission (EC) was anticipating an all-time high of 90% because of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The highest voter turnout in Kerala's Assembly elections was 85.7% in 1960, followed by 80.54% in 1987.

All 140 seats in Kerala went to the polls on Thursday. The turnout was comparatively higher in the northern and central Kerala districts.

Multiple factors — like anti-incumbency against the CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF), minority consolidation, and the strong triangular fight in many constituencies with the BJP making all-out efforts to mark its presence in the Assembly — could be the reasons for the higher voter turnout.

KERALA
Assembly Poll

The acute summer in the state seemed to trigger brisk polling from the morning hours, crossing 50% by noon.

Kerala Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Rathan U Kelkar said the elimination of many deceased and duplicate voters in the SIR resulted in a higher voter turnout.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan expressed hopes that the LDF would come to power for a third consecutive term by improving its seat tally from 99 in 2021.

Opposition leader V D Satheesan reiterated that Congress-led United Democratic Front would come to power by winning over 100 seats.

Predicting a hung Assembly, Kerala BJP president Rajeev Chandrasekhar said the NDA would become a decisive force as the LDF and the UDF would fail to attain a majority.

Woman made to wait over hurt index finger

A young mother in Thrissur, initially denied the right to vote due to an injured left index finger, finally cast her ballot towards the end of polling after a prolonged wait following CEO's intervention, reports PTI. She claimed that the presiding officer initially denied her permission to vote, saying that a different finger can be inked only if a person does not have a left index finger.

Puducherry sees historic 89.87% polling

CHENNAI, DHNS: Electors of the Union Territory of Puducherry flocked to cast their votes in Thursday's Assembly elections, achieving a remarkable turnout of 89.87%, the highest so far since 1964 when the first election was held following the merger of the territory with India after its independence, a top official said here.

Though the voting percentage almost touched 90%, looking at absolute numbers reveals a different picture as the number of people who voted in the 2026 elections could be just a little higher than 2021 elections, as 6% of voters were removed during the Special Intensive Revision. The UT had recorded 83.4% voter turnout in the 2021 polls.

The polling percentage might be revised as officers are yet to send the final figure from their polling stations. Sources in the the office of Puducherry's CEO said there was no untoward incident during the polling.

Trinamool releases 'sting' video alleging Rs 1,000 crore Humayun Kabir-BJP deal

KOLKATA, DHNS: The Trinamool Congress on Thursday released a video of a "sting operation", which it claimed exposed the party's renegade legislator Humayun Kabir's alleged Rs 1,000 crore deal with the BJP to help unseat Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee from power in West Bengal.

Humayun Kabir

"Humayun Kabir stands fully exposed. He has openly admitted in the video being fully sponsored by the BJP as its paid mercenary to divide communities, manipulate the masses, and split votes in West Bengal," senior TMC leader Firhad Hakim said after the party released the video.

The video purportedly shows Kabir speaking about his contacts with senior BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. He is also allegedly heard referring to links with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Kabir was suspended from the TMC a few months ago after he announced his plan to build a replica of the Babri Mosque. He then launched the Aam Janata Unnayan Party, and recently allied with the AIMIM.

The TMC has demanded an Enforcement Directorate probe into Kabir's purported statement in the video that he received Rs 200 crore as the first instalment of the alleged Rs 1,000 crore deal to help the BJP oust the ruling party.

The authenticity of the video could not be independently verified.

Kabir, however, dismissed the TMC's claims as "preposterous", alleging that the video was created using artificial intelligence.

PM Modi attacks TMC over 'lawlessness, infiltration'

SURI, PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday went all guns blazing against the ruling TMC, accusing it of lawlessness and unleashing 'maha jungle raj' by referring to the Bagtui carnage of 2022, in which around 10 women and children were burnt alive in Birbhum district.

Addressing an election rally at the district headquarters in Suri, Modi intensified the BJP's infiltration plank, citing last week's gherao of judicial officers in Malda to slam the Mamata Banerjee administration and reiterate his conviction of getting the country rid of "illegal entrants".

"I stand before you today to make this promise: Once there is a change of guard in state power following these elections, I will initiate a special inquiry against the facilitators of infiltration in this state and put them behind bars," he declared.

"The Trinamool Congress' slogan of 'Maa-Mati-Manush' (mother, land, people) has become nothing more than empty rhetoric. While 'Ma' is crying and 'Manush' is reeling under the fear of the goons of the TMC regime, land encroachment by infiltrators under the current dispensation has reached dangerous proportions," he added.

Sunetra to have smooth sailing as Cong withdraws from bypoll

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Ending weeks of suspense and scoring brownie points, the Congress opted out of the by-elections for Maharashtra's prestigious Baramati seat, paving the way for a smooth sailing for Deputy Chief Minister and NCP president Sunetra Pawar.

The crucial by-elections were necessitated because of the death of the then NCP chief Ajit Pawar (66), an eight-term MLA and six-time deputy chief minister.

Congress candidate Akash More, a lawyer-politician and son of former MLC Vijayrao More, withdrew his nomination papers at the instructions of the party high command. "As a mark of respect (for Ajit Pawar), the Congress will not contest the by-election," AICC general secretary Ramesh Chennithala said.

More was accompanied by Sunetra Pawar's younger son, Jay Pawar, when he withdrew the papers. "I want to thank him for the withdrawal of candidature," Jay said.

While 53 nominations were found valid, on the last day of withdrawal, 23 candidates, including Sunetra Pawar, remain in the fray. Other prominent Independent candidates are Karuna Munde, the estranged first wife of NCP leader Dhananjay Munde, and Abhijeet Bichukale, a controversial personality who originally hails from the Satara district.

The withdrawal at the fag end of the deadline came after Maharashtra Congress president Harshavardhan Sapkal made the announcement in Mumbai.

POLITICAL TURN

Naxalbari, cradle of the red, now painted saffron

FROM THE GROUND

SUMIT PANDE
NAXALBARI, DHNS

"*Kanu Sanyaler bari kothai?*" (Do you know where Kanu Sanyal's house is?)

The traffic policeman, busy scrolling reels on his smartphone, looks up and shrugs his shoulders. Once the most wanted man in West Bengal, Kanu Sanyal is long dead. And no one is looking for him. Not even in Naxalbari, the cradle of the first Left-wing armed insurgency in India.

If Charu Majumdar was the ideological heft behind the 1967 uprising, Kanu Sanyal was the chief mobiliser of tribal sharecroppers and contract labourers against exploitative landowners.

The police reprisal was swift and strong. But the sparks of what unfolded in Naxalbari, a small town nestled among 300 square miles of tea gardens at the base of the Darjeeling hills, would spread to large parts of India in the coming decades.

It took almost 50 years for the Indian state to declare victory over Naxalism. In the Lok Sabha last month, Union Home Minister Amit Shah declared that the final assault on Left-wing extremism in India had been successful.

When the red fades, it often turns saffron.

Pani Tanki, the Indian checkpoint at the Nepal border, is 20 km from Bagdogra, the strategically important airport in the narrow Chicken's Neck that connects the Northeast with the rest of India. The settlements on both sides of the highway are dotted with pennons fluttering in the strong gale gliding down from the hills.

The BJP is actively wooing the large tribal population of the Naxalbari constituency in north Bengal.

"They were put up during the Hanuman Jayanti and Ram Navami celebrations recently. Even meat shops were closed during Navratras in the area we live," says Rinki Sharma as trucks roll over the overbridge to enter Nepal.

Lord Ram, emblazoned on saffron flags, stands battle-ready. Hanuman, as in other parts of the country, is angry.

Ananadamoy Barman, the BJP MLA from the Matigara-Naxalbari constituency, has been renominated by the party. Amidst shouts of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Jai Shree Ram', his convoy reaches Zamirdarpur, a small village on the banks of Manja, a small tributary of Mahananda that flows through Siliguri before merging with the Ganga.

"The way the TMC government has exploited the people of Bengal, it is time we bid a final farewell to Mamata di," he tells his supporters.

The language of political mobilisation remains the same — exploiter vs exploited, haves vs have-nots. The actors and ideology metamorphose with the times.

WEST BENGAL
Assembly Poll

"CPM candidate Jharen Roy is well respected here, but can he put up a fight?" asks a villager. Roy's former CPM colleague Shankar Roy is now a BJP MLA from the adjoining Siliguri seat.

In the last couple of elections, the BJP has done well in north Bengal. Barman won the Naxalbari seat by a margin of over 70,000 votes. This constituency has a substantial population of tribals and the Scheduled Caste Rajbansi community, whom the BJP is aggressively wooing.

Last year, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee laid the foundation for the construction of a Mahakal Temple in Siliguri. Her candidate against the BJP's Barman is Sankar Malakar, a former Congress MLA who shifted to the TMC ahead of polls.

On our way back, we finally managed to meet someone who knew where Kanu Sanyal lived.

"I participated in Kanu Sanyal's funeral when he passed away," Jaganath Munda says, directing us to Hathighisha village, where the Naxal ideologue lived before he took his life in 2005.

"The party is past. It's the BJP now that dominates," he tells us.

SC warns states, UTs on rising child trafficking cases, seeks action

Says gangs are operating across country, and prompt action is needed

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has expressed grave concern over rising cases of child trafficking, saying gangs are operating across the country, and if states and Union Territories do not take immediate action, things will go beyond control.

The court said only the state governments and their home departments can act vigilantly in this regard.

"As a court, we can monitor, but ultimately the action has to be on the part of the state government, the police and other agencies. Therefore, this is our humble request," a bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan said during the hearing of a plea on Wednesday.

The bench expressed displeasure over the "lackadaisical" approach of several states and UTs in implementing a 2025 judgment aimed at dismantling organised trafficking networks.'

Political will

Justice Viswanathan said the retrieval of children in some cases proves the problem can be tackled, but it requires a level of political and administrative will, which is lacking at present.

The verdict, delivered on April 15, 2025, had mandated several institutional reforms, including completion of trials in trafficking cases within six months on a day-to-day basis. It had also directed the strengthening of Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) and improving investigation standards.

Besides asking for the setting up of state-level committees to monitor vulnerable trafficking hotspots, it had asked the authorities to treat missing children cases as trafficking unless proven otherwise.

Earlier, the bench had termed the compliance reports filed by a few states as "nothing but an eye wash." On Wednesday, the bench noted that Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Odisha and Punjab had still failed to file reports in the prescribed format.

When the home secretary of Madhya Pradesh offered an apology for the lapse, the bench granted a "final opportunity" but warned that continued failure would lead to states being officially branded as "defaulting". It noted that at least 15 states are yet to constitute review committees mandated to identify and monitor trafficking-prone areas.

The court fixed the matter for consideration on April 29.

PIL in SC seeks strict rules for issuing Aadhaar to adolescents

NEW DELHI, DHNS: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to issue new Aadhaar cards to citizens only up to the age of six years, and frame stringent guidelines for its issuance to adolescents and adults — a move apparently aimed at stopping infiltrators from masquerading as Indian citizens.

The PIL filed by lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay has also sought a direction to the authorities to install display boards at common service centres, stating that the 12-digit unique identification number was only a "proof of identity" and not a proof of citizenship.

Besides all states and Union Territories, the plea has mentioned the UIDAI — the authority that issues Aadhaar cards — and the Union Ministries of Home, Law and Justice, and Electronics and Information Technology as parties.

The plea, filed through lawyer Ashwani Dubey, argued that Aadhaar, originally intended as a proof of identity, had increasingly become a "foundational document" enabling individuals to obtain other identification documents, such as ration cards, domicile certificates, and voter identity cards.

"The UIDAI has issued 144 crore Aadhaar cards, and 99% Indians have been enrolled. Therefore, the petitioner is filing this writ petition as a PIL under Article 32, seeking a direction to the UIDAI to issue new Aadhaar cards only to children and frame new stringent guidelines for adolescents and adults," the plea said.

Bengaluru-bound AI flight suffers mid-air engine stall

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

An Air India flight from Mumbai to Bengaluru experienced an engine-related issue mid-air on Thursday, prompting the pilots to issue a "PAN PAN" call.

A PAN-PAN call is the international radio urgency signal used by aircraft, ships, or vehicles to declare a serious, time-sensitive situation that is not immediately life-threatening.

'MAYDAY' is the highest-level international radio distress signal used by pilots and sailors to signal life-threatening emergencies.

The 'PAN-PAN' signal was sent out following engine problems. Air India confirmed the incident involving flight AI-2812.

PAN-PAN call is the international radio urgency signal used by aircraft, ships, or vehicles to declare a serious, time-sensitive situation that is not immediately life-threatening

The problem in the flight was detected shortly after it took off from the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai.

An alternate aircraft was arranged, after which it flew to Bengaluru.

"The flight from Mumbai to Bengaluru returned to Mumbai shortly after take-off as a precaution due to a suspected technical issue, in accordance with standard operating procedures. The aircraft landed safely and is undergoing detailed technical inspections in line with Air India's safety standards," an Air India spokesperson said.

"We regret the inconvenience caused to our passengers. Our Mumbai airport teams provided immediate assistance, and an alternative aircraft was arranged to operate the flight. The safety and well-being of our passengers and crew remain Air India's top priority," the spokesperson added.

The airline has not reported any injuries. Further investigation into the cause of the engine stall is underway.

Six employees of Nashik IT firm held in sexual harassment case

MUMBAI, DHNS: In a shocking turn of events, police arrested six staff members of a well-known multinational IT firm in Nashik, Maharashtra, for allegedly engaging in sexual exploitation and attempting to convert junior female employees to another religion.

Describing the incident as "very serious", Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, who is the state home minister, ordered a probe into the incident.

"This is a very serious incident... police have exposed it. It is a serious case that happened in a technology company and involves sexual harassment and religious conversion," he said.

The incidents were reported between 2022-26, and so far, nine FIRs have been registered.

The accused were identified as Danish Sheikh, Tausif Attar, Raza Memon, Shahrukh Qureshi, Shafi Sheikh, Asif and Ansari.

Nashik city police commissioner Sandeep Karnik formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the incident.

Maharashtra minister Nitesh Rane reacted strongly to the issue and described the Nashik incident as "corporate jihad". "It is a big incident...these six persons have been arrested. But who is behind that...who is the mastermind...who is funding them," Rane said.

The victims include eight women and one man.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

WE'VE HAD A REALLY TOUGH YEAR, BUT WE'RE GONNA HAVE A NEW YEAR'S OFFICE PARTY ANYWAY
YAY!
HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYBODY!
PARTY'S OVER, FOLKS...LET'S GET BACK TO WORK
BLEEP!
THAT'S IT?
LAST YEAR WE DIDN'T EVEN GET HORNS
BLEEP!

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

HOW OLD ARE YOU, MISS BUXLEY?
THAT ISN'T A POLITE QUESTION TO ASK A WOMAN, ZERO
GREG + MORT WALKER
FUNNY, MY FIVE-YEAR-OLD SISTER IS ALWAYS BRAGGING ABOUT HER AGE
12/17

Peanuts

SUBTRACTION?
OH, YES, MA'AM
I CAN EXPLAIN IT
SUBTRACTION IS THE AWFUL FEELING THAT YOU KNOW LESS TODAY THAN YOU DID YESTERDAY

Marvin

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

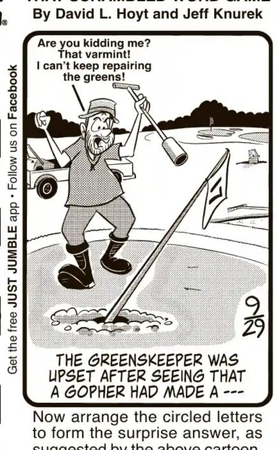
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OEYNJ

LAKAO

NNGIEE

GYUNHR



THE GREENSKEEPER WAS UPSET AFTER SEEING THAT A GOPHER HAD MADE A ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: ( ) ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: QUASH JOUST OUTWIT SEPTIC
Answer: When asked if they could make a timepiece for the wrist, Patek and Philippe said — JUST WATCH US

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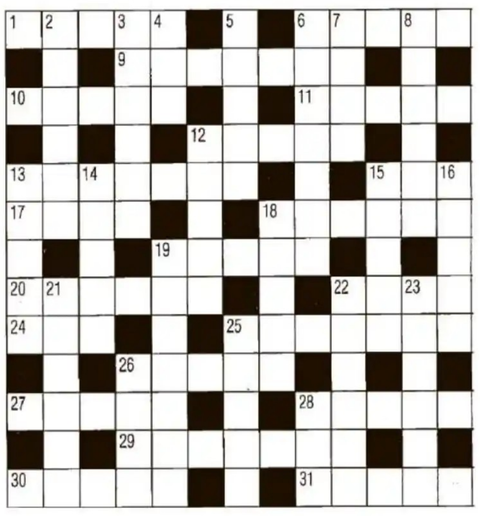
CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12392



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Tree or horse out West (5)
6 A rota arranged in person (5)
9 That mad part of Greater London? (7)
10 With salary increased, you can shell out (3,2)
11 Lane that takes half an hour to dry out? (5)
12 He wrote about Friday (5)
13 Always the cleric in the fore, perhaps (7)
15 Very little, note (3)
17 Help out a redhead getting dry (4)
18 Get one free? Away with you! (6)
19 Chief among ex PMs? (5)
20 How to travel by road (3,3)
22 Pudding makes you seem tired, duck (4)
24 Hardly what you'd call a lady (3)
25 A little down? (7)
26 You'd hardly expect him to translate Norse! (5)
27 They go out from the centre, taking a girl into the fresh air (5)
28 Naïve type possibly involved in some bombing (5)
29 Conceded by Edward to a little old lady (7)
30 One with a beastly laugh? (5)
31 Mass entertainer said to be without vision! (5)

DOWN
2 Might he manage to roar from the rostrum? (6)
3 Was rude to a busman (6)
4 In April, partly, one can take a rest (3)
5 One rising to great heights in winter sport? (5)
6 One port in Hampshire (7)
7 Man-eater in retrogression (4)
8 Swimmer possibly taking no part (6)
12 Hang around for a day outside the help centre (5)
13 In truth, noisy deeds (5)
14 An addition, such as a jockey (5)
15 A jinx, so a great swimmer got rid of him (5)
16 As a singer, might he be some cornetist? (5)
18 A fighting dog? (5)
19 Cake made by certain Irishmen? (7)
21 Nominal imitator of Sir Edmund (6)
22 Walk or cycle, perhaps, on the street (6)
23 Could be a pest or a pet (6)
25 If you want to be discovered, originate something (5)
26 Does it mean bad can be got out of good? (4)
28 Chancy thing to do in a tube train (3)

EASY

ACROSS
1 Wound marks (5)
6 Canal-boat (5)
9 Moral (7)
10 Frivolous (5)
11 Origins (5)
12 Performance area (5)
13 Needing a drink (7)
15 Ready (3)
17 Hire (4)
18 Café (6)
19 Punctuation mark (5)
20 Gate (6)
22 Sack (4)
24 Previous day (3)
25 Singer (7)
26 Yielded (5)
27 Besom (5)
28 Keen (5)
29 Elapsing (7)
30 Twelve (5)
31 River-mouth (5)

DOWN
2 Day nursery (6)
3 Response (6)
4 Pig-pen (3)
5 Song (5)
6 Steal (7)
7 Medicinal plant (4)
8 Assemble (6)
12 Backless seat (5)
13 Nonsense (5)
14 Habituate (5)
15 Blemish (5)
16 Turret (5)
18 Panel (5)
19 Troglodyte (7)
21 Exaggerate (6)
22 Hunt (6)
23 Begrudge (6)
25 Stop (5)
26 Manage (4)
28 Finish (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12391

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, Mighty 7, Manitoba 8, Gilded 10, Clear 13, Bond 14, Kiln 15, Mugs 16, Jim 17, Graz 19, Icon 21, Freeze-dry 23, Guy's 24, Area 26, Ken 27, Tire 29, Trap 32, Tend 33, Se-I-ne 34, De-CI-de 35, Pit-Cher-s 36, Lame-NT.
DOWN: 1, S-M-ack 2, Angel 3, Stir 4, MA-Gog 5, Gold 6, Tiepin 9, Inside 11, Lid 12, Angry 13, Buzz-ard 15, Mae 16, Joy 18, Re-St.-ed 20, Crate 21, F-un 22, Ere 23, Gene-Va. 25, Nan 28, In-e-pt 30, Rivet 31, P-ease 32, Time 33, Sock.

EASY
ACROSS: 4, Lesion 7, Confetti 8, Spider 10, Evade 13, Blag 14, Soda 15, Peer 16, Hen 17, Rail 19, Arid 21, Renegades 23, Disc 24, Idea 26, Gem 27, Head 29, Poet 32, Moan 33, Osier 34, Misers 35, Eighteen 36, Dental.
DOWN: 1, Acres 2, Knead 3, Here 4, Lisle 5, Swig 6, Opened 9, Parade 11, Vow 12, Dares 13, Belgian 15, Pie 16, His 18, Anchor 20, Reaps 21, Rim 22, Add 23, Desire 25, See 28, Easel 30, Oiled 31, Trunk 32, Melt 33, Oche.

◆SU-DO-KU-6876◆

	9		1		5			
1	4			2	7			
					6	3		
5		1		6	9	4		8
	6	2				1	7	
4		9	7	3		2		5
		4	9					
			8	7			5	3
			6		3		2	

easy

SOLUTION TO 6875

2	3	7	5	6	9	1	8	4
1	4	6	2	7	8	3	5	9
9	5	8	3	1	4	2	6	7
7	6	5	1	4	3	8	9	2
3	8	1	9	2	6	7	4	5
4	9	2	7	8	5	6	1	3
5	1	4	6	3	7	9	2	8
8	2	3	4	9	1	5	7	6
6	7	9	8	5	2	4	3	1

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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I1	O1	E1	N1	O1	M3	R1	RACK 1
Y4	T1	L1	S1	I1	H4	S1	3rd Letter Double — RACK 2
E1	E1	D2	P3	L1	V4	O1	Triple Word Score — RACK 3
M3	O1	A1	L1	W4	N1	Y4	Double Word Score — RACK 4
Y4	U1	R1	R1	M3	M3	C3	RACK 5

PAR SCORE 205-215
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

M3	I1	M3	O1	S1	A1	S1	RACK 1 =	63
W4	I1	N1	D2	O1	W4	S1	RACK 2 =	78
T1	R1	I1	V4	I1	A1		RACK 3 =	9
C3	O1	N1	C3	U1	R1	S1	RACK 4 =	61
							JUDD'S TOTAL	211

PAR SCORE 135-145

HITORI-3330

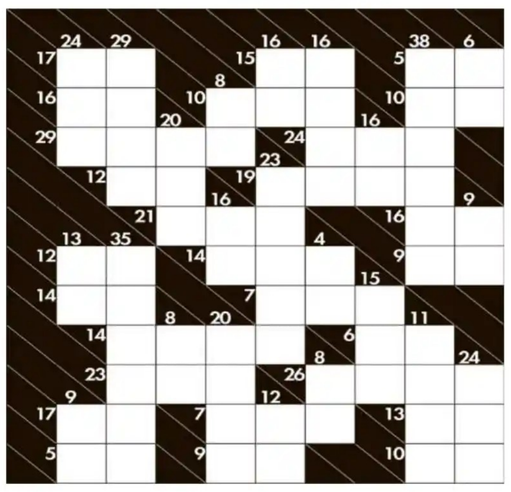
6	2	2	5	1	7	8	4
7	2	8	2	5	4	8	5
2	6	4	1	7	4	5	8
8	5	1	4	2	3	6	8
8	8	2	8	4	6	2	3
4	1	3	7	8	8	2	8
5	4	8	8	2	8	7	1
1	8	5	6	8	2	4	8

SOLUTION TO 3329

■	1	6	■	8	4	7	■
3	4	■	1	2	8	■	6
■	6	2	■	7	■	8	4
2	8	■	4	1	7	■	3
7	■	8	3	4	■	6	2
8	5	■	7	3	2	4	1
5	■	4	2	■	3	■	8
4	2	7	■	5	6	3	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3330



SOLUTION TO 3329

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3881

■	5		6			9		■
9	■	1					■	
		■				8		
		6	■		■		9	
	4			■	1			
3			■		4		6	
	6	3				■	8	5
	■	2	7			3	■	
■	1						■	

SOLUTION TO 3880

4	6	5	9	1	2	3	7	8
8	7	2	3	6	5	4	1	9
3	1	9	7	4	8	5	6	2
7	4	3	2	9	6	1	8	5
2	8	1	5	3	7	6	9	4
5	9	6	4	8	1	2	3	7
1	5	7	6	2	9	8	4	3
6	2	4	8	7	3	9	5	1
9	3	8	1	5	4	7	2	6

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

10 Indian fishermen held for 'poaching'

COLOMBO, PTI: At least 10 Indian fishermen have been arrested and their trawler confiscated by the Sri Lankan Navy for alleged poaching in Sri Lankan waters.

A release from the Sri Lankan Navy on Thursday said it seized an Indian fishing boat and apprehended 10 Indian fishermen while they were poaching in Sri Lankan waters in the sea area North of Mannar on Wednesday.

So far, this year, the Sri Lankan Navy has seized 16 trawlers and arrested 112 Indian fishermen for alleged poaching. At least 30 Indian fishermen were repatriated from Sri Lanka on Tuesday, authorities said.

The fishermen issue is a contentious one in the ties between India and Sri Lanka, with Lankan Navy personnel even firing at Indian fishermen in the Palk Strait and seizing their boats in several alleged incidents of illegally entering Sri Lankan territorial waters.

Emperor penguins are endangered species now

PARIS, AFP: The emperor penguin has been declared an endangered species as climate change pushes the icon of Antarctica a step closer to extinction, the global authority on threatened wildlife announced on Thursday.

Its change of status from "near threatened" to "endangered", made by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), underscores the existential threat for ice-dependent species as global warming profoundly reshapes the frozen continent.

Emperor penguins rely on stable sea ice -- essentially platforms of frozen ocean water -- to live, hunt and breed. Their numbers have plummeted as warming driven by greenhouse gas emissions has caused sea ice to break up earlier in the year. The IUCN said changes in sea ice were expected to halve the emperor penguin population by the 2080s.

Hormuz traffic at near standstill despite US-Iran ceasefire

Tehran asserts control as shipping drops sharply and oil crisis deepens

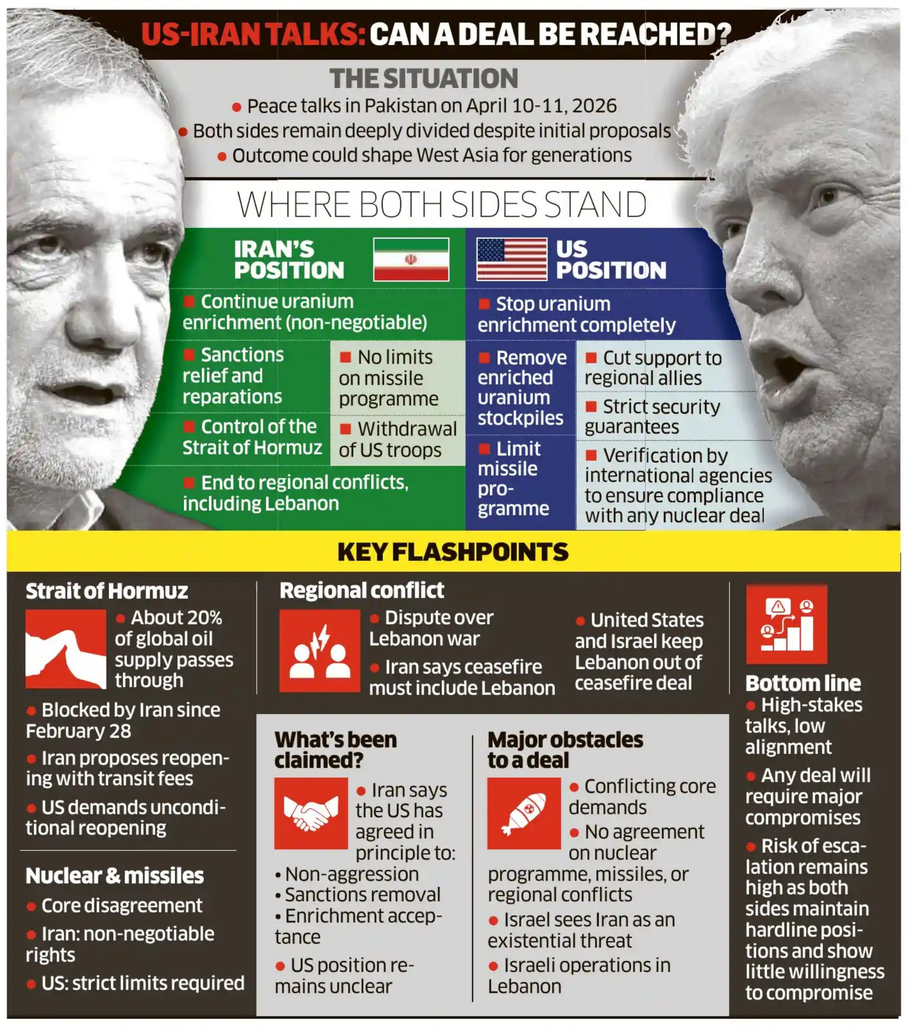
LONDON, REUTERS

Ship traffic through the Strait of Hormuz stood at well below 10% of normal volumes on Thursday despite a US–Iran ceasefire, as Tehran asserted its control by warning ships to keep to its territorial waters while transiting.

Hundreds of tankers and other vessels have been stuck inside the Gulf since the Iran war began on February 28, cutting global oil supply by 20% in what is the world's biggest-ever supply disruption. Prices for some physical oil grades hit fresh all-time highs on Thursday as the crisis showed little sign of easing. Iran must open the strait without conditions, the CEO of UAE state oil giant ADNOC said on Thursday.

Just seven ships had passed through the strait in the past 24 hours, compared with about 140 normally, ship-tracking data showed. They included one oil products tanker and six dry bulk carriers, according to data from Kpler, Lloyd's List Intelligence and Signal Ocean.

A chemical tanker was set to cross, destined for India, according to ship-tracking data from MarineTraffic and Pole Star Global. "Most shipping lines are likely to remain cautious, and two weeks will not be enough to clear the backlog even if there is a marked increase in traffic," said Torbjorn Soltvedt of risk intelligence company Verisk Maplecroft.


US-IRAN TALKS: CAN A DEAL BE REACHED?
THE SITUATION
Peace talks in Pakistan on April 10-11, 2026
Both sides remain deeply divided despite initial proposals
Outcome could shape West Asia for generations
WHERE BOTH SIDES STAND
IRAN'S POSITION
Continue uranium enrichment (non-negotiable)
Sanctions relief and reparations
No limits on missile programme
Control of the Strait of Hormuz
Withdrawal of US troops
End to regional conflicts, including Lebanon
US POSITION
Stop uranium enrichment completely
Remove enriched uranium stockpiles
Cut support to regional allies
Limit missile pro-gramme
Strict security guarantees
Verification by international agencies to ensure compliance with any nuclear deal
KEY FLASHPOINTS
Strait of Hormuz
About 20% of global oil supply passes through
Blocked by Iran since February 28
Iran proposes reopening with transit fees
US demands unconditional reopening
Nuclear & missiles
Core disagreement
Iran: non-negotiable rights
US: strict limits required
Regional conflict
Dispute over Lebanon war
Iran says ceasefire must include Lebanon
United States and Israel keep Lebanon out of ceasefire deal
What's been claimed?
Iran says the US has agreed in principle to:
• Non-aggression
• Sanctions removal
• Enrichment acceptance
US position remains unclear
Major obstacles to a deal
Conflicting core demands
No agreement on nuclear programme, missiles, or regional conflicts
Israel sees Iran as an existential threat
Israeli operations in Lebanon
Bottom line
High-stakes talks, low alignment
Any deal will require major compromises
Risk of escalation remains high as both sides maintain hardline positions and show little willingness to compromise

Risks persist for ships not authorised by Iran, particularly those affiliated with Israel and the US, British maritime security company Ambrey said in an advisory. "Even shipping with apparent approval has been turned back in recent weeks mid-transit," it said.

Media reports have suggested that Iran might seek to charge a toll for ships passing through, with some estimates putting the figure at $2 million.

Iran publishes chart showing it may have put sea mines

Iran published a chart on Thursday suggesting the Revolutionary Guard put sea mines into the Strait of Hormuz, in a message that may be intended to pressure the US, AP/PTI reports from Dubai.

The chart showed a large circle marked "danger zone" over the Traffic Separation Scheme, which was the route ships take through the strait, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of all oil and natural gas traded once passed.

Pakistan prepares for US-Iran talks with anxiety

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Pakistan on Thursday beefed up security in the national capital as it prepares, with anxiety, for high-stakes talks between the US and Iran this weekend, amid a warning from Iran's top leadership that Israeli strikes on Lebanon would render negotiations meaningless.

The US and Iran agreed to a two-week conditional ceasefire on Wednesday, followed by a face-to-face meeting in Islamabad to settle differences and convert the ongoing truce into a lasting peace. Meanwhile, Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and they reviewed the progress of Pakistan's mediation efforts to achieve sustainable peace in the region, according to a statement issued by the PMO.

Delegations from both sides are expected to arrive in Islamabad by Thursday night to participate in the talks.

"Despite scepticism in Iranian public opinion due to repeated ceasefire violations by the Israeli regime to sabotage the diplomatic initiative, invited by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the Iranian delegation arrives tonight in Islamabad for serious talks based on the 10 points proposed by Iran," Reza Amiri Moghadam, Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan, said in a post on X.

A day earlier, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said President Trump was dispatching his negotiating team, led by Vice President JD Vance, to Pakistan for peace talks.

UK accuses Russia of covert submarine activity

Kremlin says Russia has right to defend itself from 'piracy'

LONDON, PTI

Britain said Thursday it had tracked and deterred three Russian submarines on an alleged month-long "covert operation" in UK waters in the North Atlantic near vital undersea cables and pipelines.

Disclosing details of the joint mission with Norway and other unspecified allies, British Defence Secretary John Healey said there was no evidence the Russian vessels had damaged the subsea infrastructure. The UK minister said he was revealing the operation, which involved British warships and military aircraft, to "call out this Russian activity" and send Russian President Vladimir Putin a message.

"We see your activity over our cables and our pipelines and you should know that any attempt to damage them will not be tolerated and will have serious consequences," he told a Downing Street news conference. Healey said he had deployed Britain's armed forces "to track and to deter any malign activity by these vessels", adding Putin's purpose was "secret operations that remain undetected over our critical infrastructure".

"We've exposed those covert operations. We've made clear to him and his submarines that we've watched them every step of the way."

Britain and its allies tracked an Akula-class Russian nuclear-powered attack submarine and two specialist submarines from Russia's Main Directorate of Deep Sea Research (GUGI), the UK's Ministry of Defence (MoD) said.

Meanwhile, the Kremlin said on Thursday that Russia had the right to defend itself from what it called piracy after Britain's Telegraph newspaper reported that a Russian navy frigate had escorted UK-sanctioned tankers through the English Channel. A Russian navy frigate, the Admiral Grigorovich, had escorted two UK-sanctioned oil tankers, the Russian-flagged Universal and the Cameroon-flagged Enigma, through the English Channel.

Philippines dares China with new base in SCS

MANILA, AP/PTI

The Philippines on Thursday unveiled a major coast guard base on an island in the South China Sea, describing it as a "steadfast sentinel of our sovereignty" in a disputed region closely monitored by China's forces.

Chinese officials did not immediately respond to the opening of the Philippines' coast guard district command on Thitu Island, which has been occupied by Filipino forces and civilians for decades but is also claimed by Beijing.

Chinese coast guard and other government-linked ships frequently patrol waters off the island, which is also claimed by Vietnam and Taiwan. Chinese and Filipino forces have had tense but mostly minor confrontations in surrounding waters in the past. China claims virtually the entire sea, a key trade route, despite a 2016 arbitration ruling that invalidated its expansive claims under the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Beijing did not participate in the arbitration, rejected its outcome and continues to defy it.

Philippine Transport Secretary Giovanni Lopez, Senator Erwin Tulfo and coast guard commander Admiral Ronnie Gil Gavan flew to Thitu to inaugurate the command in a brief ceremony held to coincide with the Day of Valour commemoration.

Nato states doing what Trump wants: Rutte

WASHINGTON, REUTERS: Nato chief Mark Rutte said on Thursday that member countries are doing everything US President Donald Trump had requested to strengthen the military alliance, even if some were initially "a bit slow" to provide support to the United States amid its war with Iran.

"When it came time to provide the logistical and other support the United States needed in Iran, some allies were a bit slow, to say the least. In fairness, they were also a bit surprised. To maintain the element of surprise for the initial strikes, President Trump opted not to inform allies ahead of time," Rutte said.

"But what I see, when I look across Europe today, is allies providing a massive amount of support," he added. "Nearly without exception, allies are doing everything the US is asking. They have heard and are responding to President Trump's requests."

Rutte's comments came after meeting Trump on Wednesday. He has briefed some capitals that Trump wants concrete commitments for help securing the Strait of Hormuz.

IMF, World Bank warn of food price surge

WASHINGTON, PTI: The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Food Programme have said that the war in West Asia has triggered one of the largest disruptions to global energy markets and will lead to rising food prices and food insecurity.

In a statement, the heads of the three organisations said the burden of rising food prices would fall most heavily on vulnerable populations. "The West Asia war is upending lives and livelihoods in the region and beyond. It has already triggered one of the largest disruptions to global energy markets in modern history. Sharp increases in oil, gas and fertiliser prices will inevitably lead to rising food prices and food insecurity," they said.

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN-U40109KA2002SGC030438

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites tender for following Services. **Enquiry No. CEE/BMANZ/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2026-27/Enq.No-07 Dt: 07.04.2026** for providing 82 numbers of man power services to fast track helpline desk on Contract basis for a period of one year to various O&M sub-divisions of East and North circle, BMAZN, BESCOM.

Issue of bid documents: **13.04.2026 to 12.05.2026 (14:00 Hrs)**. Last date for receipt of bid documents: **12.05.2026 Upto (16:00 Hrs)**. Opening of bid documents on or after **15.05.2026 (11:00 Hrs).**

The tender can be obtained through e-Procurement from the tendering website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Any clarifications about e-payment contact e-procurement help desk 9240214000/ 9240214001 Or e-mail to support@eprochelpdesk.com for any issue.

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Electy), (C, O&M), BMAZ-North, BESCOM, Bengaluru.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಸಿ.ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ, ನಜರ್‌ಬಾದ್, ಮೈಸೂರು – 10.
(Ph. No: 0821-2979772 E-mail:-khsdrp.divmys@gmail.com)
ಸಂ: ಆಕುಕ/ಇಂ.ವಿ./ಕಾ.ಅ/ಮೈ/ಸಇ–1/ಟೆಂಡರ್–02/Deposit/2026–27
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.04.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ಮೈಸೂರು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ದುರಸ್ಥಿ ಮತ್ತು ನವೀಕರಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲಾದ ಮೂರನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.50.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.29.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳು: 1) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 15.04.2026 ರಂದು 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. **2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ (ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್): 16.04.2026 ರಂದು 16.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ (Through KPPP) https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ದಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

ಸೂಚನೆ: 1) ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ/ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ **2)** ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
DIPR/DDMYS/31/KSMCA/27/2026-27

KARNATAKA STATE TOWN PLANNING BOARD
Office of the Director & Member Secretory, GPO PB # 5257.
M.S. Building Gate IV, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-01.
Ph No: 080-22258988, 22353974, 22353976 Fax:080-22389519
e-mail: mskstpb@karnataka.gov.in website: www.kstpb.dtcp.gov.in

No. KSTPB/03/Tender- Experts/2025-26 DATE:08.04.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Tenders are invited from reputed firms for Outsourced Agency for Hiring of Experts (Urban Planners & GIS Consultants **(Tender No:DTCP/2026-27/SE0096), Tender Name: Outsourced Agency for Hiring of Experts (Urban Planners & GIS Consultants)** for the office of Member Secretary, Karnataka State Town Planning Board, Gate No.4, Multi storeyed building, Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560001 through Karnataka public procurement(KPP) Portal. Tender document on KPP Portal platform has been published on **08.04.2026**. The last date for submission of bid is **26.04.2026 upto 15.00 Hours.** Date and time of opening of Technical bid is **27.04.2026 at 15.30 Hours** and Date of opening of financial bids is **29.04.2026 at 16.00 Hours.**

Prescribed tender form along with NIT, terms & conditions etc., can be obtained/downloaded from and submitted through Karnataka public procurement portal **(https:kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

Sd/-
Deputy Director,
Karnataka State Town Planning Board,
Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/123/NR/2026-27

BENGALURU MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bangalore - 560 009.
Tel: 080-22341230/35, E-mail : bmicapa@gmail.com

No: BMICAPA/CLU-03/74/2025-26/49 Date : 09.04.2026

PUBLICATION
[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961]

Sri K.T.Raju S/o Thimmegowda has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from" Agriculture" Zone to "Commercial " purpose pertaining to Sy.No:153/7 extent of 00Acre-35Guntas of B.Gowdagere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Mandya Taluk, Mandya District under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid land is reserved for Agriculture zone in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1) By developing the Commercial Projects in the above said land, the general public will get job opportunities.
2) During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for labourers.
3) Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Commercial Project in the above said land.
4) By the development of Commercial purpose, the Government will get the Taxes in various forms.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/-
Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/118/Zen/2026-27

KOF Since 1984 ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಹಕಾರ ಎಣ್ಣೆಬೀಜ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಮಹಾಮಂಡಳ ನಿಯಮಿತ,
ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ: ನಂ. 11, 4ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಬ್ಲೂ ಕ್ರಾಸ್ ಛೇಂಬರ್ಸ್, ಇನ್‌ಫ್ಯಾಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಡ್ಡ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560001,
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: pi@kof.coop ಫೋನ್: 080–25550268, 9591812016/8073093473,

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ: ಕೆಓಎಫ್:ಪಿಐ:ಸಾ&ನಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್:2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.04.2026

ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ವೆಚ್ಚದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೆಓಎಫ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರು ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಬೆಂಬಲ ಬೆಲೆ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ 2025 ಹಿಂಗಾರಿನ ಖರೀದಿಸಲಾಗುವ ಕುಸುಬೆ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನವನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಿಂದ ರಾಜ್ಯ/ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಉಗ್ರಾಣಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಾಗಿಸಲು, ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ವೆಚ್ಚದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. **50,000/–** ಗಳು.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.04.2026 ರಿಂದ 17.04.2026** ರವರೆಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನ **Karnataka Co-operative Oilseeds Growers Federation Ltd.,** ಡಿಪಾರ್ಟ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿದ್ದು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಬೇಕು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲ್ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೆಓಎಫ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

KOF Since 1984 **Karnataka Co-operative Oilseeds Growrer's Federation Ltd.,**
No. 11, 4th Floor, Blue Cross Chambers, Infantry Road Cross,Bangalore – 560001
Email: pi@kof.coop, Ph: 080-25550268, Mob: 8073093473/9591812016

Ref: KOF:PI:GB:2026-27 Date: 09.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Managing Director, KOF, Bangalore is inviting tender for supply of 30,000 to 40,000 new B-twill empty gunny bags measuring 94cm Length X 57cm Width with 530gsm (+ or – 100gm) for filling of Safflower, which is procuring under Price Support Scheme Operation during Rabi 2025-26 season.

The detailed tender information along with EMD details can be viewed from e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Any changes or corrigendum, the same shall be updated in KPP Portal.

Sd/- Managing Director, KOF, Bangalore

KARNATAKA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
Ugrana Bhavan, No.43, Primrose Road, Bangalore-560025.
Fax: 080-29533673, Phone No: 080-29533679
Email : kswc.eng@gmail.com

SHORT TERM 'E' TENDER NOTIFICATION

No.: KSWC/ENG/11/F-91/2026-27 DATE : 08.04.2026

1. The Managing Director, Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation, Bangalore invites e-tender for Construction of balance warehouse works at Ambuga in Hassan Taluk & District. Tender form may be downloaded from https: kppp.karnataka.gov.in. **Amount put to Tender** : Rs.812.39 Lakhs. **EMD** : Rs. 12.18 Lakhs.
2. Prescribed EMD should be paid through online while submitting the tender.
3. E-Tendering should be submitted in two cover system containing "Technical Bid and Financial Bid". Financial bids of the bidder those who qualify in Technical bid will be opened.

CALENEDR OF EVENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1.	Pre Bid meeting	18.04.2026 at 15.00 Hours
2.	Date of uploading Queries Clarifications	21.04.2026 up to 17.30 Hours
3.	Last date for receipt of Tender	23.04.2026 up to 17.30 Hours
4.	Opening of Technical Bid	27.04.2026 up to 16.30 Hours
5.	Opening of Financial Bid	29.04.2026 up to 17.30 Hours

4. The Contractor should be produce the original document at the time of opening of technical bid. After preparing the list of eligible contractors by scrutinizing technical bid. Financial bids of eligible contractors will be opened at the Head Office in the presence of the contractors.
5. Managing Director reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.
6. Further details can be had from the above said office of the undersigned during working hours.

Sd/-
MANAGING DIRECTOR
DIPR/CP/122/AKAR/2026-27

KARNATAKA STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION
(Established under the State Financial Corporation's Act 1951)
BRANCH OFFICE : CENTRAL
Ground Floor, KSFC Bhavana, No. 1/1, Thimmaiah Road,
Near Contonment Railway Station, Bengaluru-560 052.
Mobile: 9448468712, e-mail: central.ksfc@karnataka.gov.in

SALE OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY AT DABASPETE, BENGALURU RURAL

The following asset which has been taken over u/s 29 of SFCs Act 1951 for recovery of dues is available for sale on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** through e-auction. The interested persons to purchase the same may participate in the e-auction through e-portal.

1) Name of the unit: M/s.EVGRIEN

Description of the property: Vacant Land Plot No,13, Avverahalli Industrial Area, Sy.No.79/2&80/5, Honnenahalli and Sy.No 12-P, Yedehalli, Sompura Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. The property standing In the name of Sri. Madhukar A Patil, Bounded by East by- Plot No.1-8, West by Plot No.13-A & SWD-10, North by-KIADB 18M wide Road, South by: KIADB Buffer total measuring 3238 Sqm.

Public Inspection Date: **23.04.2026 from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.** Reserve Price: **Rs. 647.60 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 64.76 Lakhs.**

1) e-Auction will commence on **13.05.2026 at 11:00 AM and Closes on 17.05.2026 at 4:00 PM. (2)** Last date for payment of EMD and obtain key is **12.05.2026 at 4:00 PM.**

Terms and Conditions: 1) The sale is through e-auction and as detailed in website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** interested persons are advised to visit the aforesaid website. **2)** This is also a statutory notice for sale of secured assets to the borrowers / Owners. Further they are also requested to mobilise prospective buyers interested in buying the above properties by participating in the e-auction to safeguard their interest. **3)** For more details on e-procurement helpdesk No.**080-46010000 & 080-68948777** at e-procurement cell, 4th floor, Sri Arvind Bhavan, Mythic Society Compound, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore-560 001. **4)** All statutory dues and other dues/taxes payable to local authorities / State BESCOM / development charges / GST if any are payable by the purchaser.

Date:10.04.2026 Sd/-
Place: Bengaluru Deputy General Manager

Biz Bytes

Banks asked to speed up inward payments

MUMBAI, PTI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday directed banks to streamline their processes for inward cross-border payments to ensure faster customer notification and timely credit to beneficiaries.

The central bank has mandated banks to inform customers immediately once a payment is made into their accounts, as per a notification.

In cases where a payment happens outside of forex market hours, they will have to inform the customer the next day.

Rupee gains 3 paise against $

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee settled with a marginal gain of 3 paise at 92.51 against the US dollar on Thursday, backed by a weak American currency, even as the situation in West Asia remains fragile, keeping investors wary of the opening of the Strait of Hormuz.

Forex traders said geopolitical uncertainty was still high amid Iran's threat to step out of the talks if Israel kept bombing Lebanon, and markets are in a wait-and-watch mode rather than strong directional positioning.

The rupee opened at 92.63 against the US dollar and touched the intraday low of 92.92 against dollar.

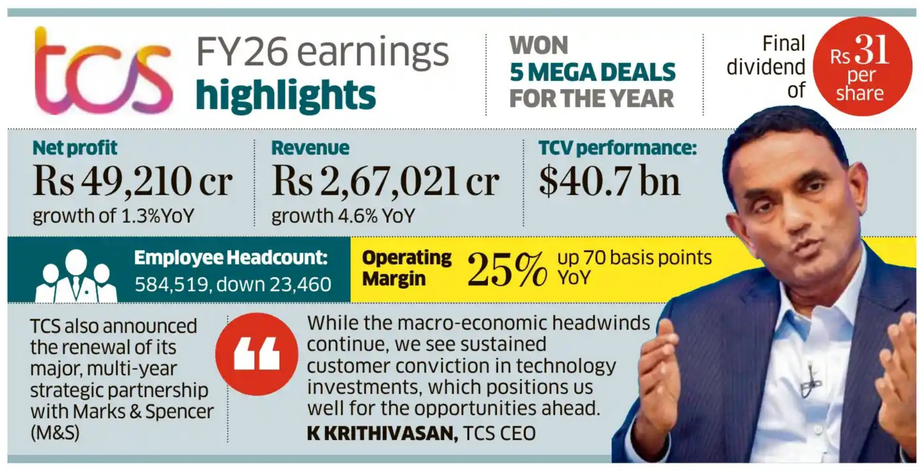
Nava raises $22 mn in Series A funding

BENGALURU, DHNS: Cloud infrastructure company building GPU compute and AI data centres across Asia-Pacific, Nava (formerly Kluisz), has announced a $22 million (about Rs 200 crore) Series A funding, led by Greenoaks, with participation from RTP Global and Unicorn India Ventures.

Alongside the fund-raise, the company also announced its rebrand to Nava. As part of its next phase of growth, Nava is establishing Singapore as its regional headquarters.

Strong deals help TCS post 12.2% rise in Q4 net profit

Annualised AI revenue crosses $2.3 billion in Q4FY26


tcs FY26 earnings highlights
WON 5 MEGA DEALS FOR THE YEAR
Final dividend of Rs 31 per share
Net profit
Rs 49,210 cr
growth of 1.3%YoY
Revenue
Rs 2,67,021 cr
growth 4.6% YoY
TCV performance:
$40.7 bn
Employee Headcount:
584,519, down 23,460
Operating Margin 25% up 70 basis points YoY
TCS also announced the renewal of its major, multi-year strategic partnership with Marks & Spencer (M&S)
While the macro-economic headwinds continue, we see sustained customer conviction in technology investments, which positions us well for the opportunities ahead.
K KRITHIVASAN, TCS CEO

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Backed by strong deal wins, and a falling rupee, the country's largest IT services firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) beat analysts' estimates and posted a 12.2% year-on-year (Y-o-Y) increase in its consolidated net profit in March quarter at Rs 13,718 crore compared to Rs 12,224 crore in the year-ago period. For the full fiscal year FY26, the company posted Rs 49,210 crore net profit, a 1.3% increase compared to Rs 48,553 crore in FY25.

The company's revenue from operations in the fourth quarter of FY26 stood at Rs 70,698 crore, a 9.6% jump compared to Rs 64,479 crore. For the full fiscal year, the company posted Rs 2,67,021 crore revenue, a 4.6% growth, compared to Rs 2,55,324 crore in FY25.

The company's annualised AI revenue has crossed $2.3 billion in Q4FY26 and its FY26 operating margin stood at 25%, up 70 basis points Y-o-Y. This is the company's highest operating margin in the last four years.

Speaking at analysts' call, the management hinted at headwinds, but remained quite positive about FY27 and international business.

The company also posted strong total contract value (TCV) at $40.7 billion for FY26 and $12 billion for Q4, with 3 mega deals for the quarter and 5 mega deals for the year.

K Krithivasan, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, said at the analyst call that the direct impact from the geopolitical situation is restricted to West Asia and to some extent the travel and transportation industry. "We are not seeing a major impact in other industries so far," he said, adding if it continues (conflict situation), it might have an impact.

The CEO said they are quite positive about FY27 and that deal momentum will continue in the new fiscal year. "While the macro-economic headwinds continue, we see sustained customer conviction in technology investments, which positions us well for the opportunities ahead," he added.

As IT services firms in India bill in foreign currencies, rupee depreciation provides them support as they incur costs in rupees. However, Samir Seksaria, Chief Financial Officer, said, rupee depreciation does help, but does not guarantee always.

He said investment in HyperVault has come a long way since the announcement the company made last year. HyperVault aims to establish AI data centres with capacity in excess of a GW and address the growing need for AI-ready data centres.

The company's BFSI vertical grew 0.4% Y-o-Y and consumer business grew 0.8% Y-o-Y. Revenue from its North American market grew by 2.5% Y-o-Y.

Top officials also said that many mega deals have a significant amount of AI embedded into that. TCS' restructuring expenses in FY26 stood at Rs 1,388 crore. In July 2025, the group announced restructuring initiatives. As a part of this initiative, the group released certain associates and the total cost it incurred in these layoffs stood at Rs 1,388 crore. The CEO mentioned during the analyst call that the restructuring programme has been completed.

TCS headcount down over 23,000 in FY26

BENGALURU, DHNS: TCS' total employee headcount stood at 5,84,519 in FY26, down over 23,000 employees compared to previous fiscal. In FY25, its total employee headcount stood at 607,979.

For Q4FY26, its headcount increased by 2,356 employees. Last year, the company had reported layoffs of about 12,260. Analysts said aggregate net hiring at the industry level has been weak since FY22, mainly due to the prolonged moderation in demand outlook.

The company will also implement an annual salary increase across all grades effective April 1. "In Q4, we continued to invest in a future-ready workforce with strong additions across experienced talent and campus hires. Building an AI-first culture and equipping our people with AI-ready skills remained a key priority in FY26 and will continue into FY27, as we align closely with our customers' evolving needs," Sudeep Kunnumal, Chief HR Officer, TCS, said.

Top performers will be receiving double digit hikes. In September last year, the company gave increments to 80% of its employees. Top executives of the company mentioned that they have enough deal momentum and demand that they could handle increased wage costs.

He also mentioned that all employees and their families in West Asia are safe and that they are in constant touch with them, providing the necessary support.

"We are focused on building a future-ready organisation by strategically hiring both fresh graduates and experienced professionals. Our recruitment efforts have been concentrated on individual expertise in AI, data enterprise solutions, software engineering, cloud cyber security and digital engineering. In FY26, we also hired over 750 employees with deep advisory and consulting expertise," Kunnumal said.

Markets halt 5-day rally, Sensex drops 931 points

MUMBAI, PTI

Key numbers
- Sensex sheds **931.25** points
- Nifty 50 declines **222.2** points
- Brent crude jumps **3.27%** to **$97.85** per barrel

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty buckled under heavy selling pressure to close with deep cuts on Thursday after investors pared exposure to financial, banking, and IT stocks as renewed tensions in West Asia faded the ceasefire-led optimism.

Weak trends in Asian and European markets, a jump in crude oil prices and uninterrupted foreign fund outflows also made investors jittery in the domestic market.

Snapping its five-session winning run, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 931.25 points or 1.20% to settle at 76,631.65. During the day, it dived 1,215 points or 1.56% to 76,347.90.

The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 222.25 points or 0.93% to end at 23,775.10. The ceasefire deal appeared to be at risk after Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz again in response to Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

"After Wednesday's relief rally following the ceasefire announcement, domestic markets ended the volatile session in the red, driven by ceasefire uncertainty. Markets followed global cues as most of the markets ended in red due to crude oil gains and global uncertainty.

"Focus now will be on domestic company earnings, and sectors getting impacted due to surging crude prices. Investors will wait for more clarity on whether the ceasefire will translate into meaningful discussion and help end the war before taking any major equity exposure," Ankur Punj, MD & Business Head at Equirus Wealth, said.

From the 30-Sensex firms, InterGlobe Aviation, Larsen & Toubro, Eternal, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the major laggards.

On the other hand, Bharat Electronics, Power Grid, NTPC and Tata Consultancy Services were among the gainers. The BSE SmallCap Select index climbed 0.26%, and the MidCap Select index went up by 0.15%.

Among sectoral indices, BSE Top 10 Banks tumbled 1.86%, Private Banks index (1.75%), Bankex (1.58%), Financial Services (1.41%), PSU Bank (1.21%), Services (1.04%) and MidSmall Private Banks Quality Tilt (0.88%).

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 3.27% to $97.85 per barrel.

India to grow at 6.6% in FY27, says World Bank

Flags headwinds from West Asia crisis

NEW DELHI, PTI

The World Bank has marginally raised India's growth projections for 2026-27 fiscal to 6.6% and said that although GST rate cuts would boost consumer demands in the initial months of the fiscal, headwinds arising from the Middle East crisis could dent growth.

The FY27 projection compares with estimates of 6.9% by the RBI, 6.1% by the OECD, and 6% by Moody's Ratings.

In its South Asia Economic Update report released on Wednesday, the World Bank said India's growth is estimated to have accelerated from 7.1% in FY25 to 7.6% in FY26 (April 2025-March 2026), owing to strong domestic demand and export resilience.

Private consumption growth was particularly robust, supported by low inflation and rationalisation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

"Growth is projected to decelerate to 6.6% in FY27, reflecting headwinds from the Middle East conflict," it said.

Although the reduction in GST rates should continue to support consumer demand in the first half of FY27, elevated global energy prices are expected to put upward pressure on prices and constrain households' disposable income, it said.

Government consumption growth is expected to soften to set higher subsidy outlays for cooking fuel and fertilisers. Investment growth is likely to moderate amid elevated uncertainty and rising input costs, the World Bank said.

Improved access to the United States and the European Union for India's exports will be undermined by slower growth in major trading partners, it added.

The World Bank in its Global Economic Prospects report in January had projected India to grow 6.5% in 2026-27.

The World Bank said the impact of the Middle East crisis is highly uncertain and other forecasters have revised down their growth projections to a range between 5.9% and 6.7% for FY27.

On February 28, the United States and Israel launched military strikes against Iran, triggering sweeping retaliation from Tehran.

On April 8, Iran, the United States and Israel agreed on a two-week ceasefire in the war that tore across the Middle East and disrupted the global energy market.

Real estate sees 60 PE deals worth $4.3 billion in FY26

BENGALURU, DHNS: India's real estate capital markets witnessed a decisive recovery in FY26, shaking off two years of subdued activity to reclaim levels last seen in FY22. According to Anarock Capital's FLUX FY26 Annual Edition, the sector recorded total deal value of $4.3 billion — a 13% and 16% rise over FY24 and FY25, respectively — with the uptick underpinned by a far healthier, broad-based deal environment than in previous years.

"India's real estate capital markets have moved from a period of concentration and caution to one of breadth and conviction," said Shobhit Agarwal, CEO – Anarock Capital. "FLUX FY26 captures a market that is deepening — more deals, more participants, more asset classes — even as it navigates a complex global backdrop."

Agarwal adds, "FY26's recovery is especially significant for its quality. Unlike FY24 and FY25 - where a single mega-transaction (Brookfield RE Trust/GIC and RIL/ADIA/KKR, respectively) accounted for 37% and 41% of total deal value - the largest deal in FY26 contributed just 9% of total activity. This marks a structural improvement in market depth, with capital flows distributed more evenly across geographies, sectors, and asset classes."

The number of transactions rose to 60 in FY26.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Karnataka Maritime Board
Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Karnataka Maritime Board
Khanija Bhavan, No. 49, West Entrance, 3rd Floor, Racecourse Road, Bengaluru - 560001.
Telephone No. 080-29577444 E-mail: ceokmb2019@gmail.com

NOTIFICATION

Sub:Engaging Director Ports and Member (Maritime and IWT operations) on Contractual basis at Karnataka Maritime Board-Reg.

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for engaging Director Ports and Member (Maritime and IWT operations) at Karnataka Maritime Board on contractual basis for an initial period of one (1) year extendable based on annual performance for a maximum period of two (2) years.

Sl. No	Designation	No of Posts	Pay Scale	Qualification
1	Director Ports and Member (Maritime and IWT operations)	01	Rs. 1,75,000 -2,00,000 (consolidated per month)	1) Must be holder of a Certificate of Competency issued under the Merchant shipping Act, 1958 having validity throughout the Commonwealth as Master in Foreign Going ship; 2) Must have served as Master of a ship 3) Must have experience in Port Administration for not less than ten years in Group-A post equivalent to the port officer of Inland Water Transport under any of the Maritime States in India or the Government of India. 4) Must have the following visual standard with or without glasses namely: Distant Vision: Right eye V: 6/6, Left eye V: 6/6 Near Vision: Right eye 0.6, Left eye 0.6 Each eye must have a full field of vision, squint or any morbid condition of the eye or of the eye lids (Trachoma like) of either eye shall be deemed to be a disqualification; and 5) Must not have attained the age of forty-five years.

Candidates who are eligible for the above post are informed to send their applications to kmb.recruitments@gmail.com **on or before 27.04.2026,** enclosing the scanned copies of Bio data and certificates with passport size colored photograph affixed to the certificate duly attested by the Gazette Officer as per the Proforma given overleaf in the ANNEXURE IN DUPLICATE.

Candidates should bring all the original documents pertaining to their qualification, degree certificates, date of birth, experience and awards if any, etc., produce before the interview committee at the time of Interview. The selection is based on the interview, relevant qualification, experience and roster points as provided by Government of Karnataka (GoK).

No TA and DA will be paid to the candidates appearing for the interview. The appointment is purely on contractual basis for an initial period of one (1) year extendable based on annual performance review for a maximum period of two (2) years and also, appointment under this Notification will not confer any rights on the part of the candidates for any appointment in the Karnataka Maritime Board.

Sd/-, Chief Executive Officer
Karnataka Maritime Board

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/21/26-27 dt.08.04.2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಯಾ/ಕೆಕೆಆರ್‌ಡಿಬಿ/ತಾಸ–1/2026–27/12 ದಿನಾಂಕ:08.04.2026

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ) KW- 4

(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಹೆಸರು ಇಂಟೆಂಡ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಹತ್ತಿಗೂಡರ ದೇವದುರ್ಗ ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಪರಸಾಪೂರ ವಾಯಾ ಬಿರನೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25134 **2) ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:** 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಕೆ.ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಡಿ.ಬಿ. ಯೋಜನೆ **3) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 143.74 ಲಕ್ಷ **4) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:**3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು **5) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 10.04.2026 ರಿಂದ 21.04.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **6) ಟೆಂಡರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ (ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲಾ) **7) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 21.04.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **8) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್:** 23.04.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **9) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್:** 29.04.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **10) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ (ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ):** ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ಸೂಚನೆ :– ಟೆಂಡರರಿಗೆಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ).

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್
ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/16/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ&ಎ/2026–27

Government of Karnataka
(Department of Agril; Marketing)
Agricultural Produce Market Committee,
Gandhi Gunj, BIDAR – 585 403
E mail: apmcbidar@gmail.com Office Ph : 08482-226424

No.AMD/APMC/BDR/SGT/ 03 / 2026-27 Date: 01-04-2026.

-: E-Tender Notification:-

APMC., Bidar hereby invites Tender Notification for the of 2026-27 regarding supply of Security guard staff and cleaning staff through e-portal. Supply agency has to be registered in labour department. The contractors have to submit all tender related documents, by uploading through http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in website with latest amendments.

1) Last date for issuing the tender application forms. 24-04-2026 upto 4.00 PM, 3) Last Date for the submission of filled in e-tender applications. 27-04-2026 at 4.00 PM ,4) Date of opening tender (if Possible) 29-04-2026 at 4.00 PM
1) Name of work:- Supplying of Securtiy guard and cleaning staff, 2) No.of staff:- 34
3) EMD Amount (in Rupees):- 2,50,000/-, 4) Tender fee:-As per E- Portal. 5) Details:-
1. Security guard supervisor: 01, 2) Drivers: 05, 3) Computer Operators: 03, 4) Data Entry Operators: 04, 5) Security staff:13, 6) Cleaning Staff Supervisor: 01, 7) Cleaning Staff: 07: Total:34

Any other information required can be obtained from the office of the Secretary, Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Gandhi Gunj, Bidar-585 403 during working days and hours or through website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Secretary, A.P.M.C, Bidar **Sd/- Administrator A.P.M.C, Bidar**

DIPR/Bidar/07/KSMC&A/2026-27

KARNATAKA STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION
(Established under the State Financial Corporation's Act 1951)
BRANCH OFFICE : CENTRAL
Ground Floor, KSFC Bhavana, No. 1/1, Thimmaiah Road,
Near Cantonment Railway Station, Bengaluru-560 052.
Mobile: 9448468712, e-mail: central.ksfc@karnataka.gov.in

SALE OF ASSETS THROUGH e-AUCTION UNDER SARFAESI ACT

Notice Is hereby given to the effect that the immovable property described herein have been taken possession under the provisions of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset & Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002 (SARFAESI) in exercise of the powers conferred U/s. 13(4) read with Rule No. 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 will be **sold through e-auction on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS'**. Persons interested for purchase of the following assets may participate in the bid through e-Auction.

1) Name of the Unit: M/s. J H Metal
Description of Property: Residential Site No. 259, Khata No. 1730/146/259 the said site is carved out of Sy. No. 146, E-Khata Property No. 150200203101020056 formed at "Woods Regency Huttanahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bengaluru, measuring East to Wst 40' and North to South 30" in all measuring 1200 Sqft, and bounded on : **East by:** Site No. 261, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Site No. 260, **South by:** Site No. 258, in the name of Madan Kumar H.
Public Inspection Date:**16.04.2026 from 11:30AM to 01:30PM**
Reserve Price: **Rs. 32.40 Lakhs,** EMD: **Rs. 3.24 Lakhs.**

2) Name of the unit: M/s. Samrudhi Packaging Industries
Description of property: Site No. 51, assessment No. 219, BBMP Khatha No. 323, 51, 47/1, 219 present BBMP property No. 398/219/51, E Khatha No. 1946258888, Kalena Agrahara Hobli, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru south presently within the limits of BBMP, Ward No. 192, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to south 30 feet, in all measuring 1200 square feet and bounded on the: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Property No. 37, **North by:** Property No. 52 and **South by:** Property No. 50. In the name of K. Rajeshwari.
Public inspection date : **17.04.2026 from 11.30 am to 1.30 pm**
Reserve price : **Rs. 108.00 lakhs.** EMD : **Rs. 10.80 lakhs**

(1) e-Auction will commence on **13.05.2026 at 11:00 AM and Closes on 16.05.2026 at 4:00 PM. (2)** Last date for payment of EMD and obtain key is **12.05.2026 at 4:00 PM.**
Terms and Conditions: 1) The sale is through e-auction and as detailed in website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** interested persons are advised to visit the aforesaid website. **2)** This is also a statutory notice for sale of secured assets to the borrowers / Owners. Further they are also requested to mobilise prospective buyers interested in buying the above properties by participating in the e-auction to safeguard their interest. **3)** For more details on e-procurement helpdesk No.**080-46010000 & 080-68948777** at e-procurement cell, 4th floor, Sri Arvind Bhavan, Mythic Society Compound, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore-560 001. **4)** All statutory dues and other dues/taxes payable to local authorities / State BESCOM / development charges / GST if any are payable by the purchaser.

Date:10.04.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager
Authorised Officer

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

"I see the Impact Sub rule as a great opportunity for young players. Many don't like it because a team can take more high-risk decisions when a player -- be it a batter or bowler -- is added to the side.

PRABHSIMRAN SINGH, PBKS BATTER

Connolly's method in power-hitting era

MULLANPUR, PTI: T20 cricket is dominated by power-hitting but Punjab Kings batter Cooper Connolly is backing a more measured route to success, one built on timing, tempo and trust.

The 22-year-old Australian made an immediate impact on his IPL debut, crafting a composed unbeaten 72 off 44 balls to power PBKS to a three-wicket win over Gujarat Titans in their campaign opener.

The innings underlined his belief that there is more than one way to dominate in the shortest format.

"Each player has their own strengths, and I'm pretty keen to stick to my own strengths, which has been successful for me so far.

"Obviously power is becoming a big part of T20 cricket, but there's other ways to go around it and that's going to be me sort of understanding and learning," Connolly spoke on 'JioStar Press Room'.

Comfortable with his current approach, Connolly believes his tempo-based game allows him to contribute most effectively to the team. At the same time, he is not averse to evolution.

"I'll keep sticking to what has worked for the last five or six years and slowly adapt from there, adding little bits to the puzzle."

Asked about his approach in the IPL, Connolly said he looks to put pressure on the spinners in a bid to force captains into bringing the pacers back on which suits him the best.

"The wickets, obviously, have been relatively nice so far, so I think it's just about trying to put the pressure back on the spin and really just try to hone the spin and bring the quicks back on."

Mukul blinder stuns Kolkata

Rookie's unbeaten 54 off 27 balls helps Lucknow post a last-ball win

KOLKATA, PTI

Mukul Choudhary celebrates after scoring the winning run for Lucknow Super Giants against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Thursday. REUTERS

Kolkata Knight Riders' inexperience in pace bowling came back to haunt them yet again as Lucknow Super Giants rode on a stunning late assault from rookie Mukul Choudhary and a fifty from Ayush Badoni to clinch a three-wicket win in a last-ball IPL thriller here on Thursday.

Defending 181, KKR looked in control when Cameron Green, making his much-anticipated bowling debut this season, struck with his second ball to remove LSG skipper Rishabh Pant.

But the Australian all-rounder, short on bowling rhythm following workload management after back surgery, could not deliver at the death.

Tasked to bowl the crucial penultimate over with 30 runs needed off the last two overs, Green conceded 16 runs as 21-year-old debutant Choudhary turned the game on its head with fearless hitting, smashing two sixes and a four, including a flat hit over long leg.

With 14 required off the final over, Vaibhav Arora, who has played the lead bowler this season for KKR in the absence of Harshit Rana and Matheesha Pathirana, faltered under pressure.

Choudhary sealed the contest in dramatic fashion, launching two sixes, including one off the penultimate delivery after a missed yorker that was dispatched over deep cover.

Needing just one off the final ball, the batters scampered through as Choudhary capped a sensational knock, finishing unbeaten on 54 off 27 balls (7x6, 2x4), one of the finest cameos down the order this season.

He shared an unbroken 54-run stand with Avesh Khan, which came off just 24 balls, underlining KKR's struggles at the death.

Earlier, Badoni had anchored the chase with a well-compiled 54 (34 balls; 7x4, 2x6) to keep LSG in the hunt before Choudhary's late blitz as they scripted a remarkable turnaround from being 128/7 in 16 overs.

The defeat meant KKR remained winless after four matches, with their lone point coming from a rain-abandoned game against Punjab Kings.

LSG, on the other hand, registered back-to-back wins to move to the top half of the table with four points.

Under scrutiny as the IPL's costliest overseas buy (Rs 25.20 crore), Green produced his best outing with the bat, scoring an unbeaten 32 off 24 balls (3x4, 1x6).

He stitched a crucial unbroken stand with Rovman Powell (39 not out; 24 balls, 4x4, 2x6) to lift KKR to a competitive 181/4 after a mid-innings slowdown.

Green, who had been held back from bowling following back surgery and workload management directives from Cricket Australia, finally rolled his arm over in the ninth over and struck immediately.

SCOREBOARD

Kolkata Knight Riders: Ajinkya Rahane c Shami b Rathi 41, Finn Allen c Rathi b Prince 9, Angkrish Raghuvanshi c Markram b Siddharth 45, Cameron Green (not out) 32, Rinku Singh b Avesh 4, Rovman Powell (not out) 39. Extras: (B-1, LB-3, W-7) 11. **TOTAL (for 4 wkts, in 20 overs) 181.**

Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-99, 3-105, 4-111.

Bowling: Mohammed Shami 4-0-27-0, Prince Yadav 4-0-47-1, Manimaran Siddharth 4-0-34-1, Digvesh Rathi 4-0-25-1, Avesh Khan 4-0-44-1.

Lucknow Super Giants: Mitchell Marsh c Raghuvanshi b Arora 15, Aiden Markram c Powell b Arora 22, Rishabh Pant c Tyagi b Green 10, Ayush Badoni c Singh b Roy 54, Nicholas Pooran c Ramandeep b Tyagi 13, Abdul Samad b Roy 2, Mukul Choudhary (not out) 54, Mohammed Shami c Roy b Narine 1, Avesh Khan (not out) 1. Extras: (B-1, LB-2, NB-1, W-6) 10. **TOTAL (for 7 wkts in 20 overs) 182.**

Fall of wickets: 1-41, 2-42, 3-73, 4-95, 5-104, 6-125, 7-128.

Bowling: Vaibhav Arora 4-0-38-2, Anukul Roy 4-0-32-2, Navdeep Saini 3-0-37-0, Sunil Narine 4-0-13-1, Kartik Tyagi 3-0-31-1, Cameron Green 2-0-28-1.

Result: LSG won by 3 wkts.
PoM: Mukul Choudhary.

Clash of two sides breathing fire with their bats

Bengaluru face Royals in high voltage match

GUWAHATI, PTI

Riding on explosive starts from Yashasvi Jaiswal and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Rajasthan Royals will look to extend their dominance, while defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru will bank on a rejuvenated Devdutt Padikkal as the two in-form sides lock horns in an IPL clash here on Friday.

LIVE @ 7:30 PM

RCB have a settled top-order under the watch of the talismanic Virat Kohli, who hasn't shown any signs of rust despite stepping away from T20 internationals in 2024, while Phil Salt also unleashed his explosive abilities in the previous game.

Batting one down, Padikkal has carried his domestic form seamlessly into the IPL, signalling a return to his fluent best with an aggressive yet controlled approach.

Padikkal had made an immediate impact in his debut IPL season, scoring 473 runs for RCB and establishing himself as a stylish batter. However, subsequent stints with Rajasthan Royals and Lucknow Super Giants didn't quite yield the desired returns.

His return to Bengaluru last season, by his own admission, proved to be a turning point, as he played a key role in the franchise finally clinching their maiden title.

The left-hander has begun this season in similar vein, striking back-to-back fifties -- a 29-ball 50 against Chennai Super Kings and a 26-ball 61 against Sunrisers Hyderabad -- and will look to extend his rich vein of form.

The likes of skipper Rajat Patidar and big-hitting Australian Tim David provide solidity in the middle.

However, it is RCB's bowling transformation that has stood out. Once considered their Achilles heel, the attack now looks far more rounded. Jacob Duffy has stepped up in the absence of Josh Hazlewood, delivering incisive spells, while Krunal Pandya and Suyash Sharma have effectively choked runs in the middle overs.

The Royals, meanwhile, have emerged as one of the most explosive batting units this season, powered by the opening pair of Jaiswal and teenage sensation Sooryavanshi. The duo has consistently provided flying starts, combining clean hitting with fearless stroke-play to put opposition attacks under early pressure. Sooryavanshi has particularly grabbed attention with his audacious stroke-making, including a six off the very first ball he faced from Jasprit Bumrah in the previous game, underlining his fearless approach.

Devdutt Padikkal will be eyeing a hat-trick of fifties when Royal Challengers Bengaluru take on Rajasthan Royals on Friday in Guwahati. DH PHOTO

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Rajasthan Royals	3	3	0	0	6	2.403
Punjab Kings	3	2	0	1	5	0.637
Royal Challengers	2	2	0	0	4	2.501
Delhi Capitals	3	2	1	0	4	0.811
Lucknow Super Giants	3	2	1	0	4	-0.359
Sunrisers Hyderabad	3	1	2	0	2	0.275
Gujarat Titans	3	1	2	0	2	-0.270
Mumbai Indians	3	1	2	0	2	-0.715
Kolkata Knight Riders	4	0	3	1	1	-1.315
Chennai Super Kings	3	0	3	0	0	-2.517

GT's Rashid eager to hit back after poor 2025

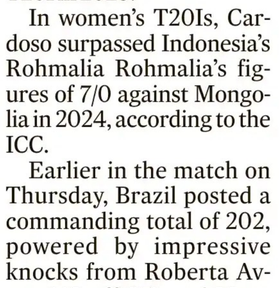
NEW DELHI, PTI: Rashid Khan **(in pic)** believes he has finally regained the rhythm that eluded him following his back surgery in 2023.

An undisputed great of the shortest format, Rashid went through a horror last season when he took just nine wickets in 15 games for Gujarat Titans. This was after an equally underwhelming 2024 run during which he struggled for rhythm post the surgery.

With a standout performance on Wednesday night against Delhi Capitals, Rashid made a loud statement. He challenged edges on both sides and took three timely wickets of Nitish Rana, Sameer Rizvi and opposition skipper Axar Patel to bring his team back into the contest that it eventually won by a solitary run.

"Yaad mat dilao yaar, bohot bura season tha (2025) (Please don't remind of it, it was a very bad season). But if you have a bad season, it doesn't mean you are gone... It's just about your line and length," Rashid said after his team's one-run win here.

"I feel like that's something which I missed it last year. And this year I was just focusing on not to think a lot. It's a fresh year and I gave myself a couple of months after the last IPL, focused on my fitness. I felt like I was struggling a little bit with my back after surgery."



Laura Cardoso

Brazil's Cardoso makes T20I history with 9-wicket haul

DUBAI, PTI: Brazil fast bowler Laura Cardoso entered her name in the record books, becoming the first player in either men's or women's T20I cricket to pick up nine wickets in a single innings.

Cardoso delivered the sensational spell against Lesotho, finishing with extraordinary figures of 9/4 from her three overs, the best-ever bowling figures in T20I cricket, at the BCA Kalahari Women's T20I Tournament at Botswana Cricket Association Oval 2 in Gaborone.

The previous record was held by Bhutan's Sonam Yeshey, who claimed eight wickets for just seven runs against Myanmar in a men's T20I in 2025.

In women's T20Is, Cardoso surpassed Indonesia's Rohmalia Rohmalia's figures of 7/0 against Mongolia in 2024, according to the ICC.

Earlier in the match on Thursday, Brazil posted a commanding total of 202, powered by impressive knocks from Roberta Avery (48 off 35) and Monnike Machado (69 not out off 41).

Gopinath, India's oldest Test cricketer, breathes his last

CD Gopinath (1930-2026)

CHENNAI, PTI

India's oldest living Test cricketer CD Gopinath died at the age of 96 here on Thursday, ending the last human link to the nation's first Test-winning team.

Gopinath, who was the second-oldest cricketer in the world after Australian legend Neil Harvey (97), is survived by his wife, children and grand-children.

Following his demise, Mumbai's 95-year-old Chandrakant Patankar has become the country's oldest cricketer. He played one Test, against New Zealand in 1955.

In the death of Gopinath, India has lost not just its oldest living Test cricketer but also the last personal link to a glorious chapter in the country's rich cricketing history.

Four years back, Gopinath had a twinkle in his eye while recounting India's first-ever Test triumph, an innings and eight-run win over England at Chepauk in 1952.

"See! That's the benefit of a long life. You can keep adding and rewriting the story. Everyone will give me the age's benefit, but you know, the benefit of doubt always goes to the batsman, doesn't it?" he had quipped.

Even at 92 then, Gopinath remained a brilliant raconteur, who would narrate amusing stories about his brief eight-Test stint in India whites.

Of course, the brightest of them would be about those four glorious days in erstwhile Madras, now Chennai.

In the statistician's book, Gopinath's numbers will always remain modest - eight Tests, that yielded 242 runs with one fifty.

But, typically of him, Gopinath never felt bitter about a short career that started on a promising note with a 50 and 42 against England at the Brabourne in 1951.

However, a rather modest subsequent trip to England later in 1952 had its own unpleasant ramifications, keeping him more out of the team than in.

But Gopinath remained a significant figure in domestic cricket, scoring heavily and captaining Madras often.

He ended up with 4259 runs from 83 matches at an average of 42. He also tallied nine hundreds.

A notable moment in his career came when he made a brilliant, stroke-filled 175 in the second innings while visiting New Zealand for South Zone.

Ayush enters quarters; Sindhu, Prannoy exit

NINGBO (CHINA), PTI: Young Indian shuttler Ayush Shetty entered the men's singles quarterfinals of the Badminton Asia Championships with an impressive straight-game win but the seasoned PV Sindhu was eliminated from the women's event here on Thursday.

World number 25 Ayush, who is also the reigning US Open Super 300 champion, registered a 21-16, 21-12 victory over his world No. 20 rival Chi Yu Jen of Chinese Taipei in a commanding display. He will next face third seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia.

However, it was a disappointing day for the rest of the Indian contingent. Two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu went down 18-21, 8-21 to second seed Wang Zhiyi of China in a 46-minute last-16 stage match.

HS Prannoy, returning after a shoulder injury, fought hard but lost 12-21, 19-21 to China's Weng Hong Yang.

In mixed doubles, Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto bowed out after a 13-21, 14-21 defeat to fourth-seeded Malaysians Chen Tang Jie and Toh Ee Wei.

Unnati Hooda, along with the women's doubles pair of Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra, will be in action later in the day.

Ayush relied on his height to unleash steep smashes and maintained tight control at the net to dominate proceedings. The opening game was closely fought early on, with the scores level at 4-4 before Chi moved ahead 10-6.

Preeti, Minakshi lead India's gold rush at Asian boxing

ULAANBAATAR (MONGOLIA), PTI

Reigning world champion Minakshi Hooda and Preeti Pawar led the gold rush for India with two other compatriots also registering victories in the finals to be crowned Asian boxing champions here on Thursday.

Joining Minakshi (48kg) and Asian Games bronze medallist Preeti (54kg) at the top of the podium were Priya Ghanghas (60kg) and World Boxing Cup gold medallist Arundhati Choudhary (70kg).

The biggest setback for India came in the 57kg final, where reigning world champion Jaismine Lamboria suffered a 0-5 defeat to Thailand's two-time world championships silver medallist Punrawee Ruenros, formerly known as Jutamas Jitpong.

India also secured another silver with Alfiya Pathan (80+kg) finishing runner-up. She went down 0-5 to Kazakhstan's Dina Islambekova in her lone bout of the Championships. The Indian women's team finished with an impressive haul of 10 medals -- four gold, two silver and four bronze.

However, with limited participation in certain weight categories, including fields of just three boxers, the likes of Lovlina Borgohain (75kg), Pooja Rani (80kg) and Alfiya essentially received medals for just participating.

Minakshi set the tone by securing India's first gold of the day with a commanding 5-0 win over Mongolia's Nomundari Enkh-Amgalan.

Preeti extended her fine run with yet another dominant display. She out punched three-time world champion and Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Huang Hsiao-wen of Chinese Taipei with a unanimous 5-0 verdict. Priya then added to the tally with a clinical 3-0 win over North Korea's Won Un-gyong, while Arundhati impressed with a 4-1 victory against Kazakhstan's Bakyt Seidish in her final.

Minakshi Hooda (left) and Preeti Panwar triumphed at the Asian Boxing Championships on Thursday. X

Indian paddlers bag three gold at Asian Youth C'ships

SHIMLA, PTI: India's Under-19 girls extended their unbeaten run with a series of commanding performances in the regional qualifiers for the ITTF-ATTU Asian Youth Table Tennis Championships here on Thursday.

With Thursday's results after the completion of team events, India claimed three of the four team titles -- Under-19 Girls, Under-15 Boys, and Under-15 Girls -- underlining the country's strength and depth at the junior level.

The only title to elude the hosts came in the Under-19 Boys category, where Bangladesh finished on top in a closely fought contest.

India did not field a team in this section, having already secured qualification during last year's Asian Championships in Tashkent.

The hosts registered clinical 3-0 victories over Nepal, Maldives, and Bangladesh finishing comfortably at the top of the round-robin standings. On Wednesday, the hosts beat Sri Lanka by a similar margin.

Results (Round 3 team): Boys: U-19: Bangladesh bt Sri Lanka 3-0; Nepal bt Maldives 3-0.
U-15: Round 3, 4 & 5: India bt Nepal 3-0; Sri Lanka bt Maldives 3-0; India bt Sri Lanka 3-0; Bangladesh bt Maldives 3-0; India bt Bangladesh 3-0; Sri Lanka bt Nepal 3-1.
Girls: U-19: Round 3, 4 & 5: India bt Nepal 3-0; Sri Lanka bt Maldives 3-0; India bt Maldives 3-0; Sri Lanka bt Bangladesh 3-1; India bt Bangladesh 3-0.

Sinner, Alcaraz survive; Fonseca impresses

MONACO, AFP: Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz both suffered second-set stumbles on Thursday in their race for the number one ranking but recovered to reach the last eight of the Monte Carlo Masters.

Sinner, who said he ran out of steam in the second set, beat the erratic Tomas Machac, 6-1, 6-7 (3), 6-3.

Alcaraz followed Sinner on to the centre court and his match went to a similar pattern before he beat Tomas Etcheverry 6-1, 4-6, 6-3.

Sinner quarterfinal opponent, sixth seed Felix Auger-Aliassime, was leading Casper Ruud 7-5, 2-2 when the Norwegian retired.

Alcaraz will next face Alexander Bublik for the first time after the Kazakh beat Jiri Lehecka 6-2, 7-5.

Earlier, 19-year-old Joao Fonseca reached the quarterfinals of a Masters 1000 event for the first time when he strode to a convincing 6-3, 6-2 win over Matteo Berrettini.

The Brazilian's last-eight opponent will be world No. 3 Alexander Zverev who despatched Belgian Zizou Bergs 6-2, 7-5.

Jannik Sinner

IN BRIEF

Janhavi, Pragya score hat-tricks

▸ Janhavi Reddy and Pragya Vora scored hat-tricks as their side Kemp Juniors FC, blasted 13 goals past GRK Girls in the KSFA Women's A Division League Championship on Thursday, reports DHNS.

Results: A Division: Kemp Jrs: 13 (S Semera 7th, 45th, Janhavi Reddy 6th, 19th, 34th, 56th, Anika Joshi 27th, Vaishnavi M 28th, Pragya Vora 31st, 35th, 54th, T Steffi 50th, Nishka Chawla 55th) bt GRK Girls FC: 0; Young Blues Elite: 3 (Shravya Manoj 9th, Nilavoli Sethu Rayar 45th, 58th) bt Reds United: 0. **B Division:** Real Bengaluru: 7 (Hindavi Sharma 6th, Sparsha N Kumar 22nd, 30th, Sindhu U Sharma 28th, 31st, Shraddha Rajak 45th, Sreethara P 50th) bt Prakrida FC: 0; Kickstart FC: 2 (Anisha Nadar 3rd, Derrin Treesa Sumesh 43rd) bt BLFA: 0.

RR Nagar reach semifinals

▸ Braces from Luke Anthony and Rivaldo JC took RR Nagar into the semifinals of the Chief Minister Cup as the side defeated CVR Nagar 4-2 in the quarters at the BFS here on Thursday, reports DHNS.

Results: RR Nagar: 4 (Luke Anthony 8th, 11th, Rivaldo JC 63rd, 86th) bt CVR Nagar: 2 (Khaleel UR Rehman 39th, Uttam Prashanth 90+5th).

Archery summer camp

▸ The Karnataka Amateur Archery Association will be conducting a summer coaching camp from April 13 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, reports DHNS.

The camp will have a morning and evening batch for boys and girls above the age of 13. For registration and further details please contact 080-22275656.

Khalin extends lead in Vizag

▸ Khalin Joshi carded a one-under 70 to extend his lead to three shots at seven-under 206 after round three at the Rs 1 crore Andhra Open 2026 in Visakhapatnam on Thursday, reports PTI.

Shreya stars for Vimanapura

▸ Shreya stole the limilight with 26 points as Vimanapura SC trounced MNK Rao Park BC 71-14 in a State Women's Basketball league championship match at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Thursday, reports DHNS.

Results: Vimanapura SC: 71 (Shreya 26) bt MNK Rao Park BC: 14. HT: 37-3; YMMA: 57 (Tanvi 14, Anjali 13) bt Pattabhiram BC: 27 (Gauri 10). HT: 27-14; Vivek's SC: 60 (Linisha 16) bt Devanga Union: 9. HT: 37-5; Hoop 7: 31 (Sharanya 11) bt Bangalore Sporting: 23 (Manasvi 9). HT: 19-18; MCHS: 41(Ananya 11) bt AVBC: 28 (Chirantana 9). HT: 28-14. BCYA: 55 (Sakshi 21) bt Vijayapura District: 42 (Lalitha 10). HT: 31-27.

FOOTBALL ROUND UP

PSG, Atletico call the shots with dominant shows

Simeone's side down Barca 2-0; Parisians heap more misery on Liverpool

BARCELONA, AFP

Atletico Madrid's Julian Alvarez (No. 19) scores an exceptional free-kick goal against Barcelona in the first leg of Champions League quarterfinals at Camp Nou on Wednesday. AFP

Julian Alvarez and Alexander Sorloth's goals earned Atletico Madrid a commanding 2-0 lead over 10-man Barcelona in a tense Champions League quarterfinal first leg clash on Wednesday.

The La Liga leaders were on top in the all-Spanish tie at Camp Nou before Pau Cubarsi was sent off for bringing down Atletico's Giuliano Simeone, who was through on goal.

Alvarez whipped home the resulting free-kick and Sorloth doubled their advantage with 20 minutes remaining to give Atletico a strong chance of reaching the semifinals.

Diego Simeone's side, who have never won the competition, reached the 2014 and 2016 finals but were beaten by rivals Real Madrid on both occasions.

Barca, semifinalists last season, need to make a huge comeback next Tuesday in Madrid if they are to stand a chance of lifting the trophy they last won in 2015.

Barca coach Hansi Flick was upset by the use of VAR to punish his side for Cubarsi's red card but not to analyse a potential handball incident against Atletico's Marc Pubill in the second half.

The defender touched the ball with his hand after goalkeeper Juan Musso passed it to him, to take the goal kick himself, which Flick said should have been reviewed.

Dominant PSG

Desire Doue and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia scored the goals to give a dominant Paris Saint-Germain a 2-0 win over Liverpool in their Champions League quarterfinal first leg on Wednesday, as the holders seized a clear advantage to take to Anfield for next week's return.

Doue's shot in the 11th minute looped over goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili and in thanks to a big touch off Ryan Gravenberch, and Kvaratskhelia then rounded his compatriot to double PSG's lead 65 minutes into a game they bossed from start to finish.

Results (Quarterfinal, first legs): Paris Saint-Germain: 2 (Doue 11th, Kvaratskhelia 65th) bt Liverpool: 0; Barcelona: 0 It to Atletico Madrid: 2 (Alvarez 45th, Sorloth 70th).

Betis fight back to earn draw

Real Betis fought back to earn a 1-1 draw in their Europa League quarterfinal first leg at Braga on Wednesday, reports AFP from Braga.

Florian Grillitsch (5th) gave Braga an early lead with a deft backheel before Cucho Hernandez (61st) levelled from the spot for Betis in the second half to leave the tie open.

Inspirational Sheetal finds an able competitor in Payal

World No. 1 para archer eyes Asian Games glory

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Sheetal Devi (left) and Payal Nag. X

From the remote village of Loidhar in Jammu & Kashmir emerged an inspiring tale of a young girl, born without arms. Defying all odds, she struck the bullseye releasing arrows using her feet and leaving audiences in awe of her determination and talent.

Since her first breakthrough around three years ago, Sheetal Devi has gone on to win multiple medals at the international stage -- became a world champion, a Para Olympic bronze medallist (2024 Paris), attained the world No. 1 status and also went head-to-head with able-bodied archers and even defeated a few of them.

While accumulating the accolades and recognition of a new-found life through her sport, what the 19-year-old was oblivious to was the number of people, especially young girls like herself, she was inspiring. And one among them, 18-year-old Payal Nag, has now become Sheetal's biggest competitor and their recent duels are being touted as the beginning of a long and healthy rivalry in para compound archery.

What makes Payal's story more endearing is that the teen from a town called Balangir in Odisha is a quadruple amputee who lost all four limbs due to electrocution. Flipping her story through archery and looking up to Sheetal for inspiration, Payal now shares a head-to-head record of 2-2 with her idol. And the latest fight to the finish line between the duo came when Payal edged Sheetal for a gold at the World Archery Para Series in Bangkok, Thailand last weekend.

"It doesn't matter if I lose or win. It feels good that Payal has come up and is doing well. It used to feel like I am alone. But not anymore," said Sheetal during a media interaction organised by the Sports Authority of India.

"Finishing first or second is a part of the game. It's not a big deal. It's good that India got two medals. And I'm really happy that Payal is doing well too."

The journey to learn the nuances of archery when Sheetal started off has undoubtedly been an arduous one. But a 2025 World Archery rule change, which prohibited para-archers from letting the bow touch their heel while shooting arrows, forced Sheetal to almost start from scratch all over again.

"She needed six months to adapt as the pain and stress levels of incorporating the new position of shooting an arrow changed," offered Gaurav Sharma, Sheetal's coach.

"When the new rule was introduced, she was already No. 1. So there was a lot of noise that this could be the end of Sheetal and such negative talks. But she worked so hard to adapt. There were days when there would be swelling, bleeding (in the toes, feet). But she didn't give up and remained focused," explained Gaurav.

"I stopped answering phone calls, ignored comments on social media and just focussed on training and worked on getting the grip right," said Sheetal, who went on to win individual gold at the World Para Archery Championships in Gwangju, South Korea and was named the Para Archer of 2025 - both after the new rule came into effect.

The resilient young woman has now set her eyes on the Para Asian Games in Japan along with the other big international events of the season. And from now on, Sheetal is aware that she is no more the 'one and only' as an able competitor from her homeland will keep her on her toes.

India go down to Indonesia

NEW DELHI, PTI: Vaishnavi Adkar's **(in pic)** gallant fight ended with a heartbreaking loss, while Sahaja Yamalapalli was outplayed by world No. 41 Janice Tjen as India went down 0-3 to Indonesia in their third match of the Asia/Oceania Group I tie to jeopardise their playoff chances at the Billie Jean King Cup here on Thursday.

The 21-year-old Vaishnavi, ranked 391 in the world, played her heart out but couldn't get past Priska Madelyn Nugroho, ranked 419, going down 7-6 (3), 6-7 (3), 3-6 in the first singles in three hours and six minutes at the DLTA stadium.

It was always going to be a difficult task for Sahaja to beat Janice as she went down 2-6, 1-6 to the star Indonesian in the second singles.

In doubles, Ankita Raina and Rutuja Bhosale put up a fight before going down 3-6, 6-7 (4) against Janice Tjen and Aldila Sutjiadi as Indonesia completed a 3-0 drubbing.

India had registered a 3-0 win over New Zealand after suffering a 1-2 loss against Thailand in their first tie.

Vaishnavi vs Priska

Vaishnavi produced a gritty, high-quality performance to take the opening set in a contest marked by frequent momentum swings, long baseline exchanges and multiple service breaks. She showed intent at the net and mixed her game well, using aggressive forehands to stay competitive.

However, she struggled to consolidate early advantages. Despite leading 40-15 in the opening game, she dropped serve as Priska countered with sharp winners.

Dettol's own goal costs hosts FCBU dearly

BENGALURU, DHNS: FC Bengaluru United failed to bag their first victory of the season as an own goal by Dettol Moirangthem in the second half led to a 1-1 draw against Kolkata's United Sports Club at the CSE Arena 1 here.

FCBU, who started their campaign with a goal-less draw against derby rivals SC Bengaluru at the same venue, scored their first goal of the season through Akshunna Tyagi (45th minute) right before the break. However, centre-back Dettol's 74th-minute own goal took two points away from them.

United SC will return in less than a week's time to the city to take on SC Bengaluru in their next match at HAL stadium on April 14. FCBU will host NEROCA FC on Apr 15.

Hima considers ending 400m sabbatical at Athletics Series 3

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Hima Das

Hima Das, who has been away from her forte 400-metre for the last six years, may end that sabbatical at the Indian Athletics Series 3 in New Delhi on April 11.

The 26-year-old athlete, who set the women's 400m national record at 50.79 seconds for a silver medal at the Asian Games 2018, entered her name for both 200m and 400m while representing her state Assam.

Hima -- once touted as India's biggest medal hope in the 400m with gold medal at the 2018 World U-20 Championships followed by a gold and a silver at the 2018 Asian Games -- skipped the entire 2025 season following her suspension by NADA for whereabouts failure in 2024.

Hima interestingly entered her name for the Indian Open 400m competition in Thiruvananthapuram last month but didn't show up for the event.

The athlete, however, told *DH* that she would compete at the Delhi meet but would decide on her 400m participation on the day of the competition.

Hima, dubbed the Dhing Express, curiously moved to sprint events post-COVID-19 as a mysterious injury was cited as the reason. The runner saw limited success with a national record in women's 4x100m relay (in 2021) and a fourth-placed finish in the same event at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Relay team misses cut

Meanwhile, the Indian 4x100m mixed relay team missed out on the World Relay Championships berth by a spot despite breaking the national record at the Indian Open Relays late last month.

The Indian quartet, which also featured Karnataka's Unnathi Aiyappa, clocked 42.30 seconds to improve their ranking to 19th. The qualification seemed certain at that point as the top 24 would have qualified but six nations, including the USA (40.84), set faster timings in the last week to push India to the 25th spot.

India, however, are set to compete in the women's 4x100, men's and mixed 4x400m of the World Relays, in Gaborone, Bostwana on May 2-3.

Race walkers' visa delay

Meanwhile, the Indian race walkers team are all set to reach Brasilia a day before the Race Walking Team Championships (April 12) following a delay in visa clearance.

The 12-athlete squad -- which included national record holders Ram Baboo, Sandeep Kumar, Akshdeep Singh, Priyanka and Manju Rani -- assembled in New Delhi for their flight to Brazil, a 30-odd hour journey following their camp in SAI Bengaluru.

The delay in departure will give the Indian race walkers no time to acclimatise to the local conditions.

Vaishali in sole lead, Sindarov ousts Praggu

PAPHOS (CYPRUS), PTI

R Vaishali. X

The unstoppable Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan made another stride towards the title as he beat India's R Praggnanandhaa to stretch his lead to a massive two points after the end of the tenth round of Candidates chess tournament here on Thursday.

Sindarov took his tally to eight points following his sixth victory in the tournament and second over the Indian.

Anish Giri of the Netherlands is the lone player closest to Sindarov on six points.

Praggnanandhaa is out of contention completely as he remained on four points following his third loss in the tournament.

In other games of the day, Fabiano Caruana of United States was held to a draw by Wei Yi of China, American Nakamura drew with Giri while Andrey Espenko of Russia played out a draw with Matthias Bluebaum.

R Vaishali, the elder sister of Praggnanandhaa, meanwhile, continued with her good form and drew with Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine to emerge as the sole leader in the women's Candidates on six points.

The Indian is now followed by Muzychuk and Jiner Zhu of China who both have 5.5 points apiece.

Bibisara Assaubayeva of Kazakhstan defeated Jiner Zhu and moved to five points along side Russians Kateryna Lagno and Aleksandra Goryachkina. The last four rounds will decide the fate of the winner and it looks like an exciting finish is on cards in the women's section.

Results (Round 10): Men: Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 8) bt R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 4); Andrey Esipenko (Rus, 3.5) drew with Matthias Bluebaum Ger (4.5); Wei Yi (Chn, 4.5) drew with Fabiano Caruana (USA, 5); Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 4.5) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 6).

Women: Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 5.5) drew with R Vaishali (Ind, 6); Bibisaraa Assaubayeva (Kaz, 5) bt Jiner Zhu (Chn, 5.5); Kateryna Lagno (Rus, 5) drew wirh Zhongyi Tan (Chn, 3.5); Divya Deshmukh (Ind, 4.5) lt to Aleksandra Goryachkina (Rus, 5).

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